

## **What Is LAST and Are You Prepared?**

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**Background Information:** Local Anesthetic Systemic Toxicity (LAST) is a low incidence but extremely high risk event that can occur in a multitude of clinical settings and in a variety of patient populations. It is imperative that clinicians who care for these patients are familiar with the recognition and management of LAST. A Qualtrics survey was performed to assess nurses' baseline knowledge of LAST and a knowledge gap was discovered.

**Objectives of Project:** Our goal was to educate nursing staff and ensure that they are fully competent and can safeguard patients from the complications of LAST. We created different modalities to deliver unit and organizational based education regarding this life threatening occurrence and developed methods to evaluate clinician competency. In addition, we identified resources that were beneficial to our educational initiative.

**Process of Implementation:** Our course of action included an annual PowerPoint presentation, participation in a simulation, and a computer-based learning module (CBL) with a post-test. Establishing baseline knowledge via PowerPoint presentation was an important first step. Simulations provided an opportunity for hands-on practice and demonstration of skills. Lastly, a CBL and clinical practice guideline were developed to educate nursing staff throughout the health system who use local anesthetic outside of the perioperative area. Completion of a CBL with post-test will reinforce content and measure proficiency.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** A follow up Qualtrics survey was completed and a considerable improvement was noted from 68% pre-education to 91.2% three months post-education. These results demonstrated that a comprehensive educational plan ensures that nurses who care for patients receiving local anesthetics can readily manage and confidently care for those whom develop LAST.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** This project demonstrates how a perioperative unit can use a multimodal educational approach to increase staff knowledge of LAST and promote retention of LAST education. It also simulates how a nursing team responds to a LAST event and speaks to the resources a perioperative nurse can use to create educational opportunities at their own facility.