

Lakeview Community Wellness Center Orthopaedic Connection

Anesthesia Without Going To Sleep

By Thomas J. Haverbush, M.D.
Orthopaedic Surgeon

Transforming patient information into patient understanding.

Last time our discussion centered on regional anesthesia, which included spinal and epidural anesthesia. If you missed class, catch up by going to the website www.orthopodsurgeon.com to read last week's article "Put Me To Sleep Not Always Best".

This week I will cover peripheral nerve anesthesia.

Peripheral Nerve Blocks

The nerves which are away from the spinal cord are called peripheral nerves. These nerves can be blocked at several points along their paths.

Local anesthetics are given as close to the nerve as possible without entering the nerve itself. Some examples of medications used are Xylocaine and Marcaine.

Examples

IV Block

The anesthetic is injected into a vein typically in the hand which causes the entire arm to be anesthetized. Carpal tunnel surgery is often done with this anesthetic. The anesthetic can be released from the arm when the surgery is over.

Brachial Plexus (Supraclavicular) Block

Local anesthetic is not injected into a vein but into the tissue surrounding the large nerves to be blocked. This type of anesthetic can last several hours. An ultrasound machine is sometimes used to inject as close to the nerve as possible.

Local

The anesthetic medication is injected into the tissue in the area to be "frozen" or anesthetized without regard to where the peripheral nerves are.

Much of the surgery I do can be done with a Regional Anesthetic rather than "Going to sleep". It is mostly reserved for adults as children are not likely to hold still.

The safety of these various techniques described the last two weeks makes them very desirable and almost always insures being able to go home after the procedure.

What if I told you that every article I have ever written for Lakeview Area News is instantly available to you on the office website www.orthopodsurgeon.com?

It is! Every article is listed by title in the archive from most recent back to the first. Click on the title and the whole article appears magically. These articles contain a huge amount of information you can use.

While you are at it, look over the website library of Orthopaedic articles as well as Your Orthopaedic Connection. These two sources have a huge amount of Orthopaedic information that can be useful to you, your family and friends. I urge you to check it out.

Orthopaedic Clinic

I also hope you realize by now that I am at Lakeview Community Wellness Center every first and third Friday afternoons seeing patients.

You can simply call and make your own appointment. Call 989-463-6092 to make an appointment at the Lakeview Community Wellness Center Orthopaedic Clinic or at the office in Alma.

Approaching Clinic dates are Friday April 20 and May 4, 2012.

I am there for you. Call if you need me.

Our goal is simple - To help people return to more pain free, functional lives. I specialize in you.

Good health. Good life. All the best to you.

Be well.

Dr. Haverbush