



When amides fail: a case of local anesthetic resistance

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The Patient: 33 year old female

- » Presents for scheduled repeat cesarean section
- » Past medical history: asthma
- » Past Obstetrical history: G2P1
 - > Cesarean section under general anesthesia due to failure to progress
 - > Epidural placed/replaced three times for labor analgesia
 - > Spinal unsuccessful
- » Digging further...



The Case: How to proceed?

- » Epidural placed in pre-op holding
- » 20cc 3% 2-chloroprocaine injected with block to T5 dermatome
- » Additional 40cc 3% 2-chloroprocaine incrementally injected throughout a successful cesarean section

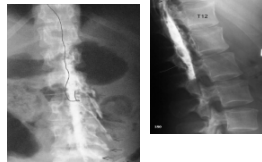
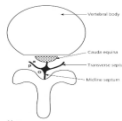


An explanation: Blame anesthesia!



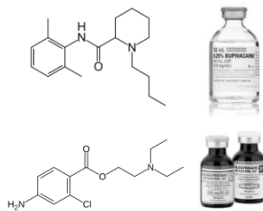
An explanation: Blame Anatomy!

- » Epidural septum?
- » Epidural fat?
- » Adhesions post-blood patch?

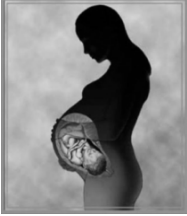


An explanation: Blame pharmacology!

- » Local anesthetic resistance?
- » Chlorprocaine vs. bupivacaine



What did we learn?



- » Learn from the past: avoid repeating that which did not work
- » The epidural space remains an enigma
- » Local anesthetic resistance may occur

Collins, C. (2011) International Journal of Obstetric Anesthesia 20:347-51
Scholz, A. (2002) British Journal of Anaesthesia 89(1):52-61