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% chloroprocaine injected with block to T5 dermatome
» Additional 40cc 3% 2-chloroprocaine incrementally injected throughout a successful cesarean section
An explanation: Blame anesthesia

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

An explanation: Blame Anatomy!

» Local anesthetic resistance?
» Chloroprocaine 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