Awake surgery audit

Surgery under regional anaesthesia without general anaesthesia. Completed by the anaesthetic team, one sheet per case.

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CASE

Audit no. _____ Date _____ Age _____ **Sex** ☐ F ☐ M **ASA** ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 Weight (kg) _____ Height (cm) _____

Operation _____ **Side** ☐ L ☐ R **Setting** ☐ Day case ☐ Inpatient **Urgency** ☐ Elective ☐ Trauma Surgeon grade _____

BLOCK

Block	Drug and concentration (%)	Volume (mL)	Dose (mg)	Operator grade	Supervised
1.					
2.					
3.					

Total dose (mg) _____ Maximum for this patient (mg) _____ % of maximum _____ **Prep, Stop, Block done** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Block tested before incision ☐ Yes ☐ No

TIMES (24-HOUR CLOCK)

Into block room	Block finished	Ready for surgery	Knife to skin	Surgery finished	Out of theatre	Ready for discharge

Block done in ☐ Block room ☐ Anaesthetic room ☐ Theatre **Tourniquet** ☐ No ☐ Yes Tourniquet time (min) _____

DURING SURGERY

Sedation ☐ None ☐ Anxiolysis only ☐ Moderate ☐ Deep Drugs and doses _____

Extra analgesia ☐ None ☐ Local by surgeon ☐ Rescue block ☐ IV opioid Details _____

Converted to general anaesthetic ☐ No ☐ Yes

Reason ☐ Block failure ☐ Block wore off ☐ Tourniquet pain ☐ Patient request ☐ Surgical

Worst pain during surgery (0-10) _____ **Tourniquet pain** ☐ No ☐ Yes **Airway intervention needed** ☐ No ☐ Yes

Hypotension treated ☐ No ☐ Yes

COMPLICATIONS

☐ None ☐ Vascular puncture ☐ Paraesthesia on injection ☐ Local anaesthetic toxicity ☐ Wrong-side block ☐ Pneumothorax
☐ Phrenic palsy with symptoms ☐ Other

AFTER SURGERY

Bypassed first-stage recovery ☐ Yes ☐ No Pain on arrival in recovery (0-10) _____ **Unplanned admission** ☐ No ☐ Yes

Reason _____

Patient satisfaction (0-10) _____ Surgeon satisfaction with conditions (0-10) _____ **Day 1 call made** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Neurological symptoms at day 1 ☐ No ☐ Yes

Awake surgery audit: notes and standards

How to use the sheet, suggested standards and references.

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MEASURES TO REPORT

Measure	How to calculate	Target
Block success	Surgery completed without general anaesthesia or rescue block	Set locally; report with reasons for each failure
Conversion to general anaesthetic	Conversions ÷ all cases	Set locally
Dose within maximum	Cases at or below 100% of maximum	100%
Prep, Stop, Block	Cases with a documented stop moment	100%
Block-to-ready time	Ready for surgery minus block finished	Report median
Recovery bypass	Cases bypassing first-stage recovery	Report the rate
Day 1 follow-up	Calls completed	90% or more
Patient satisfaction	Median score, and every score below 7 reviewed	Report

There is no national benchmark for conversion to general anaesthesia or block success in awake surgery. Agree your own standard from the first audit cycle and re-audit against it.

BACKGROUND

- A systematic review found 68 quality indicators for regional anaesthesia; three-quarters were outcome indicators and most rested on low-level evidence, so local standards need to be explicit.[1]
- The stop moment immediately before needle insertion is national policy for every block with a side.[2]
- Count every injection, including the surgeon's, against one maximum dose.[3]

REFERENCES

1. Hamilton GM, MacMillan Y, Benson P, et al. Regional anaesthesia quality indicators for adult patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery: a systematic review. Anaesthesia 2021; 76 (Suppl 1): 89-99. https://doi.org/10.1111/anae.15311
2. Haslam N, Bedforth N, Pandit JJ. 'Prep, stop, block': refreshing 'stop before you block' with new national guidance. Anaesthesia 2022; 77: 372-5. https://doi.org/10.1111/anae.15647
3. El-Boghdadly K, Pawa A, Chin KJ. Local anesthetic systemic toxicity: current perspectives. Local Reg Anesth 2018; 11: 35-44. https://doi.org/10.2147/LRA.S154512