AWAKE THORASCOPY PROCEDURE WITH PECS BLOCK:

A CASE REPORT.

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Background: Performing awake video assisted thoracic surgery is a challenge for the anesthesiologist. Several techniques have been described from local wound infiltration to epidural anesthesia. Recently a new technique has become available to perform analgesia/anaesthesia during thoracic wall procedures: the PECS Block.

The PECS Block was originally described for breast surgery¹; poor literature exists about the use of PECS Block in thoracic surgery².

Branches of the spinal nerves innervating the chest wall.

Case report: The patient was 75 years old man, with history of arterial hypertension and acoustic neurinoma. He was scheduled for awake VATS for recurrent pleural effusion. After sedation (remifentanyl infusion at 0,025 μ /kg/min) we perform the PECS blocks, ultrasound guided in three steps: PECS I (10 ml of Ropivacaine 0.375% between pectoralis major and minor at the 3rd rib level); PECS II (20 ml of Ropivacaine 0.375% between pectoralis minor and serratus anterior at the 4th rib level); Serratus Plane Block (30 ml of Ropivacaine 0.25% between serratus anterior and latissimus dorsi at the 5 rib level). The thorascopic procedure was performed through the insertion of two 7.5 FR Trocars at the 4th intercostal space and consisted in drainage of about 800 ml of pleural liquid and different biopsies at the parietal, visceral pleura and lung. The duration of procedure was 90 minutes. Vital signs were stable during the operation. The median NRS during the procedure and at 24 hours was 2 without need for analgesic rescue.

Discussion & Conclusion: this case report (never described in literature before) proved our aim: **the efficacy of PECS Block technique to provide anaesthesia during an awake VATS procedure**; a new useful technique to provide anaesthesia during Vats procedure, with the advantage of being less invasive than epidural or paravertebral blocks. More studies are necessary to evaluate the efficacy and safety of this approach.

The future role of PECS block in thoracic surgery: anaesthesia for awake thorascopy and analgesia alone or to complete the distribution of other techniques, epidural/paravertebral blocks.

References:

1 Blanco R. The 'Pecs block': a novel technique for providing analgesia after breast surgery. *Anaesthesia* 2011; 66: 847-8.

2 Blanco R. Serratus plane block: a novel ultrasound-guided thoracic wall nerve block. *Anaesthesia*. 2013 Nov; 68(11): 1107-13.