

The Use of Photograph as a Visual Aid in Positioning for Administration of a Spinal Block.

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The use of spinal anesthesia has been increasingly popular due to several advantages as compared with general anesthesia. Patients normally recover from surgery faster, have less pain and spend less expense. In addition, opioids such as morphine can be administered into subarachnoid space to provide pain relief better than that of intravenous and intramuscular administration. Since elderly often have coexisting diseases and impairment of major organ functions, general anesthesia in geriatric patients must be provided with great caution. This study was aimed to evaluate the usefulness of a photograph regarding patient positioning as a visual aid for a spinal block. The observational descriptive study was performed in 69 patients aging between 20-86 years who were undergoing hip or leg surgery, cesarean section, and transurethral resection of prostate under spinal block.

After understanding the photograph, the patient positioned him/herself with the help of nurse anesthetists. The investigator recorded the time spent for successful spinal block and the number of repositioning. The result showed no statistically significant difference of the time to successful spinal block and the number of repositioning ($p = 0.8, 0.55$ successively).