

Case Reports

Rare Complications of Caudal Block with Review of Literature

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Abstract

Caudal block is performed not only for anesthetic purposes but also to treat low back pain. This technique is not always safe; it can cause many problems, central and peripheral.

Keywords: Complications of Caudal block, Caudal Anesthesia, Back ache and caudal block.

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Introduction

Caudal block has been used for many decades.³ The purpose of using this technique has been either for anesthetic use or for managing the low back ache especially when there is adhesions or compression on the nerve roots.

Complications of this technique are well-documented, they include:⁵ perforation of the rectum, hydrocele, infection, bleeding, loss of consciousness, cardiac arrhythmias, arrest, intravascular or intraosseous injection, urinary retention, subcutaneous injection, haematoma and absent or patchy block.

Case report

We studied the case of a 36-year-old female who was found after her birth to be suffering from poliomyelitis at the right side.

During her growth she was suffering from mild tolerable low back ache. Then, when she became 30 years old, her back ache got intolerable. MRI-scan and X-rays showed scoliotic change at her lumbar area accompanied by epidural adhesions of the lumbar area, which caused her pain. A surgical consultation revealed no necessity for surgery at the time being. Therefore, conservative treatment was planned including caudal block by using a mixture of pupivacaine and steroids.

During performing the caudal block, the patient was lying in prone position, we started to inject 1.5 ml's of lignocaine (1%) in order to anesthetise the area which includes the subcutaneous tissue and sacro coxygeal ligament.

After injecting 1 ml of lignocaine, patient lost her consciousness for about 15 minutes. All her hemodynamics and cardiac observations were normal. After gaining her conscious again, the procedure was carried out safely.

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Discussion

The use of caudal block (Figures 1,2,3,4,5) is an established technique in anesthesia and for pain control, mainly for low back ache, rectal, coccydynia and leg pain.^{4,6} despite the fact that caudal block is an easy and safe technique, many complications could happen, either immediately or afterwards.^{2,5}

In this case report, whereby caudal block is a well-known method for treating low backache, these unusual complications happened, such complications are therefore of great importance, the user of caudal block should pay attention for this technique.

Reviewing the literature^{3,6} reveals such well-documented complications of the caudal block. Therefore, the complications should be reevaluated again, and I suggest that what happened to this young lady could cause enormous anxiety, based on the fact that our population in our culture is known to have low pain threshold. Then the transient ischemia have many medical reasons which need many further investigations to reach a scientific conclusion.

The nature of the complications which we faced was unique. According to literature, the amount which was injected of lignocaine 1.5 ml's (1%) shouldn't cause any serious complications such as those we faced.

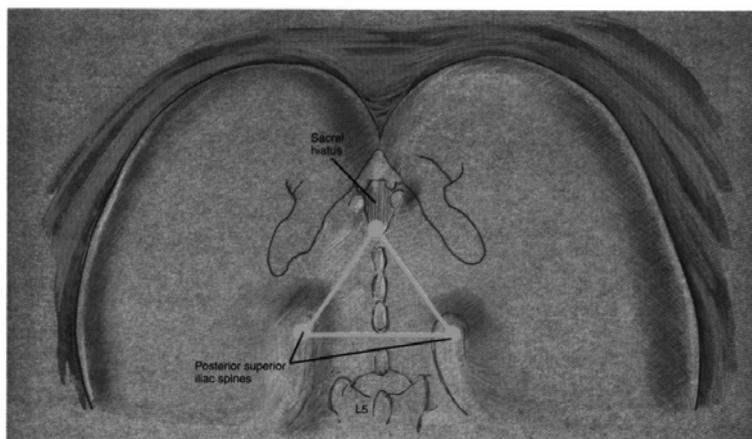


Figure (1).

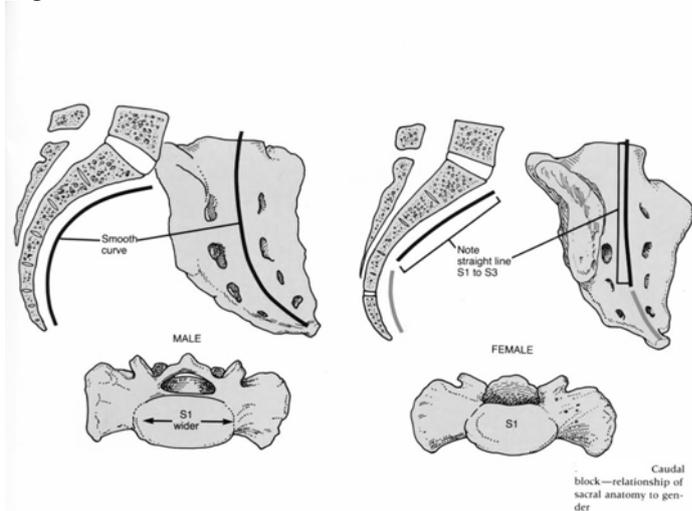


Figure (2).

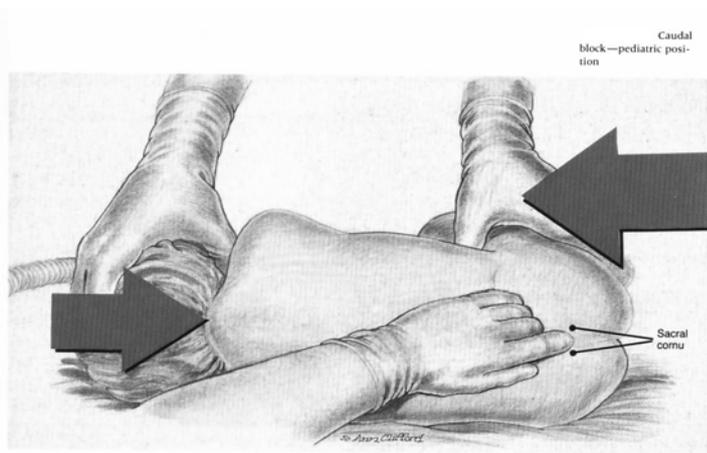


Figure (3).



Figure (4).

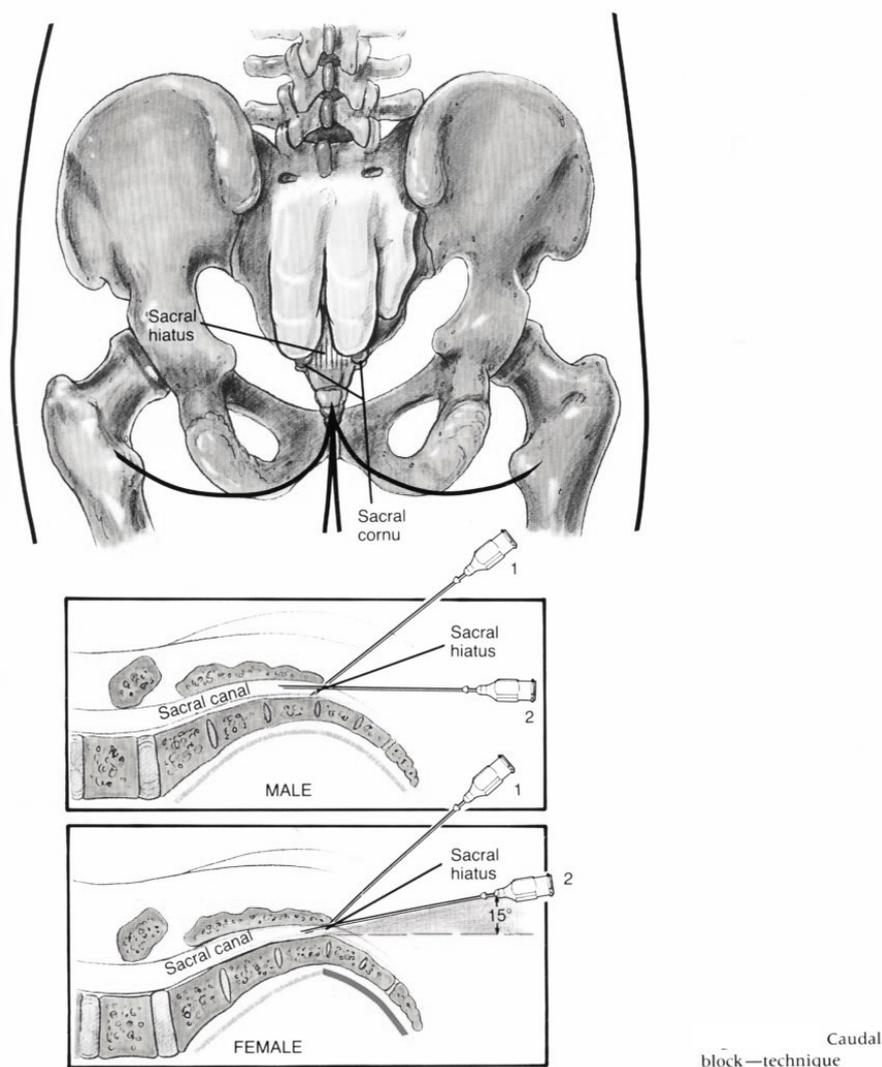


Figure (5).

Conclusions

Even though that caudal block is relatively safe and the complications are rare, resuscitative equipment and continuous contact with the patient should be done in order to avoid or to treat any complications if any should occur.

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المضاعفات الناتجة عن الاحصار العجزي

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الملخص

الهدف: تستعمل طريقة الاحصار العجزي من اجل التخدير ومعالجة آلام المنطقة العجزية للظهر، وهذه التقنية لها مضاعفات مركزية و طرفية.

الكلمات الدالة: مضاعفات الاحصار العجزي، التخدير العجزي، آلام الظهر و الاحصار العجزي.