

Identification of the Epidural Space during Epidural Anesthesia Utilizing the CompuFlo – A Pilot Study

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Epidural anesthesia is currently used as primary anesthesia, for pain management and for pain relief during childbirth. Proper identification of the epidural space is currently based on the subjective perception of the practitioner.

Recently objective measurements of the epidural space pressure for the identification of the epidural space have been proposed.

Compuflow is a novel patented computerized device integrating a pressure limited infusion and aspirating system, high and low pressure alarm and a mathematical algorithm capable of calculating a pressure drop through different extension tubing and needles.

After institutional approval and signed informed consent 20 patients scheduled for epidural anesthesia aged...were included in the study.

Epidural anesthesia was performed the usual way using a loss of resistance technique.

Several times during the procedure the device was attached to the needle and the pressures were measured and recorded.

Conclusion.

The Compuflo reliably identified the pressure characteristics of different tissues including the characteristics of the epidural space in all cases.

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