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Book Review

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very painful procedures such as rectal, perineal or orthopedic surgery. Following pelvic limb amputation, dogs show minimal post-operative pain. It also has minimal effect on the body as a whole, giving it some advantages over general anesthesia in the aged, toxic or debilitated patient. Some pre-existing problems that might warrant epidural analgesia include hepatic, renal and pulmonary disease. Additionally, epidural analgesia provides excellent muscle relaxation, is minimally expensive and is technically easy to perform.

Disadvantages to epidural analgesia include transient hypotension, apnea from a cranial (C5 to C7) blockade, restraint in some patients and inadequate blockade due to poor placement. In addition, epidural analgesia should be avoided in the following situations: shock, hypovolemia or circulatory collapse, local lumbosacral infections, vertebral column deformities, ataxia or paresis of nervous origin, septicemia and whenever there is damage to the spinal cord or meninges.

As with any anesthetic protocol, epidural analgesia should be tailored to the patient and the surgical procedure. Selection of the patient is important to the success of this technique. Because epidural analgesia is often utilized in patients where minimal anesthetic effects are desired, it is preferable for the patient to be tranquillized as little as possible. A docile dog is thus the best candidate for this technique. Use of aseptic technique, experience with the procedure, knowledge of pharmacology of the anesthetic agent and efficient monitoring will decrease the possibility of complications and make epidural analgesia a useful adjunct to many practices.

REFERENCES


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On 131 pages the viscera of the head, neck, thorax, abdominal and pelvic cavities are illustrated in 197 color photographs and labeled in accompanying legends. An additional 7 pages and 15 photographs are devoted to the lateral abdominal wall, 4 pages and 8 photographs and legends to the mammary glands followed by 6 pages of index and 7 pages of literature references. This is an attractive, handy (5¾"x7¾") text printed on glossy paper for convenient use in the gross anatomy laboratory. The photographs have been selected from a large color slide collection taken during the past 20 years from specimens dissected by the veterinary medical students in the gross anatomy laboratory of the School of Veterinary Medicine in Toulouse/France. They have been carefully chosen to represent mainly areas of interest and importance to the practicing veterinarian. Most figures are of excellent quality, their didactic value is beyond question (see for example the section on uterus and gravidity), and any student of gross anatomy will find them most instructive. However, since text and legends are in French, the nonfrancophone student will have to rely on making an educated guess when trying to find the name of a particular structure or refer to the latin nomenclature at the end of the booklet: a rather cumbersome, tedious and certainly frustrating way of identification. Still more difficulties can be expected with the text. Since an English translation is currently being prepared, I recommend that those who are willing to pay the rather high price for a treatise of parts of the bovine anatomy wait until the English edition is on the market.

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