

CHANGING CONCEPTS IN OBSTETRIC ANESTHESIA

Joy L. Hawkins, M.D.
Denver, CO

- Which pressor provides the best outcome for mother and baby when treating hypotension due to spinal anesthesia? **Phenylephrine**
Anesthesiology 2002;97:1582, Br J Anaesth 2004;92:459
- Is spinal anesthesia for cesarean delivery safe and appropriate for women with preeclampsia? **Yes**
Anesth Analg 2003;97:867
- Does ropivacaine have advantages over bupivacaine for analgesia in obstetric patients? **No**
Anesth Analg 2003;96:1473, Anesthesiology 2003;98:1431
- Is bupivacaine more cardiotoxic in pregnancy than in the general population? **No**
Anesthesiology 2001;95:1256
- Will chloroprocaine be our new short-acting spinal anesthetic, replacing lidocaine? **Maybe**
Anesth Analg 2004;98:70
- Is combined spinal-epidural analgesia less reliable than epidural analgesia? **No**
Br J Anaesth 1999;83:756
- Are complications more common after combined spinal-epidural anesthesia than after epidural anesthesia? **No**
Anesthesiology 2001;95:913
- Is there evidence that regional analgesia for labor negatively impacts delivery outcome in spontaneously laboring patients? **No**
Anesthesiology 2004;100:142, Anesth Analg 2004;99:1532
- Are women who have epidural analgesia in labor more likely to have an elevated temperature? **Yes** Is it associated with infectious complications in mother or baby? **No** Can an elevated maternal temperature cause fetal/newborn complications? **Possibly**
Am J Obstet Gynecol 2001;98:763, Am J Obstet Gynecol 2003;188:768
- Is back pain more common in women who have epidural analgesia for labor? **No**
Br J Anaesth 2002;88:466

- Are there guidelines stating that anesthesiologists must stay in-house after placing a routine labor epidural? **No**
See the ASA "Guidelines for Regional Anesthesia in Obstetrics, VIII"
- Should a woman be allowed to choose a cesarean delivery for herself without medical or obstetric indications? **Maybe**
NEJM 2003;348:10
- Should oxygen supplementation be given routinely to the mother during regional anesthesia for cesarean delivery? **Probably not**
Br J Anaesth 2004;92:518
- Is the LMA an appropriate rescue device for a failed intubation in a parturient for cesarean delivery? **Yes**
Can J Anaesth 2001;48:1117, Anesth Analg 2004;98:1467
- Should interventional radiology techniques be an available option for the patient with massive obstetric hemorrhage? **Absolutely**
Am J Obstet Gynecol 1999;180:1454, Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand 1999;78:698