

## WHAT'S CHANGING IN OBSTETRIC ANESTHESIA PRACTICE?

Joy L. Hawkins, M.D.  
University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine  
Aurora, CO

- Which pressor pro the best outcome for mother and baby when treating hypotension due to spinal anesthesia? **Phenylephrine**  
*Anesthesiology 2001;95:307, Br J Anaesth 2004;92:459, Br J Anaesth 2007;98:649, Anaesthesia 2005;60:36, Anesth Analg 2008;107:1295*
- Will adequate preload prevent maternal hypotension after spinal or epidural anesthesia for cesarean delivery? **No**  
*Anesthesiology 1993;79:262, Anesth Analg 1996;83:299, Cochrane Systematic Review CD002251, online October 2006; Anesthesiology 2005;103:744*
- Is spinal anesthesia for cesarean delivery safe and appropriate for women with preeclampsia? **Yes**  
*Anesthesiology 1999;90:1276, Anesth Analg 2003;97:867; Anesth Analg 2005;101:869, Anesth Analg 2005;101:862, Anesthesiology 2008;108:802*
- 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;98:70-101; Anesth Analg 2004;100:553-79*
- Is CSE analgesia less successful than epidural analgesia? **No, more successful**  
Are complications more common after CSE than epidural analgesia? **No**  
*Int J Obstet Anesth 2004;13:227, Anesthesiology 2001;95:913, Anesth Analg 2008;107:1646*
- Is there evidence that regional analgesia for labor negatively impacts delivery outcome in spontaneously laboring patients? **No**  
*Am J Obstet Gynecol 2001;185:128, Anesthesiology 2004;100:142, Anesth Analg 2004;99:1532, BMJ 2004;328:1410, Obstet Gynecol 2006;107:1487*
- When a woman has severe pain in early labor, will neuraxial analgesia adversely impact progress of labor? **No, early analgesia may actually shorten labor**  
*NEJM 2005;352:655, Am J Obstet Gynecol 2006;194:600*

- Does the use of epidural analgesia for labor adversely affect breast-feeding?  
**Probably not, but maybe.**  
*Br J Obstet Gynecol 2005;112:927, Anesthesiology 2005;103:1211*
- 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, Section VIII",  
www.asahq.org*
- Should a woman be allowed to choose a cesarean delivery for herself without medical or obstetric indications? **Maybe**  
*NEJM 2003;348:10, Obstet Gynecol 2006;107:1386 (NIH Consensus Panel)*
- Are women who have labor epidural analgesia more likely to have an increased temperature? **Yes** Is it associated with increased rates of infection in the mother or neonate? **No** Can an elevated maternal temperature cause fetal / newborn complications? **Possibly**  
*Pediatrics 1997;99:415, Obstet Gynecol 2007;109:687, Int J Obstet Gynecol 2007;19:165, Am J Obstet Gynecol 2008;198:49*
- Does oxygen supplementation, given routinely to the mother during regional anesthesia for cesarean delivery, benefit the fetus or newborn? **Probably not**  
*Br J Anaesth 2002;88:4 and 18, Br J Anaesth 2004;92:518, Lancet 2004;364:1329*
- 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, Br J Anaesth 2004;92:144,  
Anesth Analg 2007;105:294*
- Should interventional radiology techniques be an available option for the patient with massive obstetric hemorrhage? **Absolutely, but carefully**  
*Am J Obstet Gynecol 2007;197:470, Anaesthesia 2006;61:248, Anesth Analg 2007;104:1193*
- Do anesthetic drugs cause developing neurons to commit suicide? **Possibly**  
Is there a "best" anesthetic for surgery in pregnancy to protect the fetal brain from enhanced apoptosis? **Unknown**  
*J Neuroscience 2003;23:876, Anesth Analg 2008;106:1599, Int J Obstet Anesth 2006;15:212*