

Objectives

- Describe the needed maternal and fetal assessments that are required when systemic analgesia is given in labor
- Compare and contrast the different types of regional analgesia and anesthesia
- Discuss maternal and fetal risks associated with regional or general anesthesia
- Summarize the administration techniques for regional anesthesia
- Review the clinical pathway for epidural anesthesia
- Identify the indications and risks of general anesthesia
- Outline special anesthetic considerations with the high risk fetus and mother

Content Outline

1. Systemic Analgesia
 - 1.1 Maternal & Fetal Assessment
 - 1.2 Types of Analgesics used in labor
 - 1.2.1. Doses, route and frequency
 - 1.2.2 Side effects
 - 1.2.3. Life threatening reactions
 - 1.2.4. Contraindications
2. Regional Analgesia
 - 2.1 Type of regional blocks
 - 2.1.1. Lumbar epidural
 - 2.1.2. Combined spinal-epidural
 - 2.1.3. Pudendal
 - 2.1.4. Local infiltration
 - 2.1.5. Spinal
 - 2.2 Type of local agents
 - 2.3 Adverse effects and reactions
 - 2.4 Advantages and disadvantages
 - 2.5 Administration techniques
3. General Anesthesia
 - 3.1 Types of drugs used
 - 3.2 Complications
4. Special Considerations for the High Risk Mother and Fetus
 - 4.1 Preterm labor
 - 4.2 Preeclampsia
 - 4.3 Diabetes mellitus
 - 4.4 Cardiac disease
 - 4.5 Bleeding complications

Reading Material Resources

This self assessment module is based on the resources listed below.

The reading materials are in the form of a PDF file and can be accessed from the online testing center once the module is purchased.

Chapter 25, Pain Management During Labor, Maternal-Newborn Nursing Women's Health Across the Lifespan, Davidson, Michele, et al., Pearson Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 2008, pages 685-712.