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CLINICAL EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE

BIER'S BLOCK

Bier's Block is a valuable and safe procedure for the upper limb where anaesthesia and muscle relaxation is required

1. Consent

A full explanation should be given and written consent obtained before the procedure.

2. Equipment

Equipment should be standardised throughout the hospital so that all staff called upon to use it within the A&E Department will be familiar with it. A designated member of the hospital staff should be responsible for the regular maintenance of all equipment.

3. Training

Formal instruction and supervised practice should be a requirement before staff perform the procedure. Departmental certification/verification of competence is recommended.

4. Environment

The technique should be performed in an appropriately sited, equipped and well lit room with rapid access to resuscitation equipment.

5. Procedure

Two experienced practitioners, one of whom should be a doctor who is competent in airway management, should be present from inflation to deflation of the cuff. A 'local procedure' / 'code of practice' should be drawn up, preferably in conjunction with the other participating departments, and immediately available in the allocated rooms. This should include details of all aspects of the technique, monitoring requirements, patent selection and complications. The cuff should be tested for leakage prior to use on each occasion.

5. Audit

Periodic audit should be performed.

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