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Purpose/Goal

To provide the learner with knowledge specific to implementing the updated AORN "Guideline for care of the patient receiving local anesthesia."

Objectives

- 1. Explain the importance of the preoperative assessment.
- 2. Identify items that should be documented for local anesthetic administration.
- 3. Discuss local anesthetic pharmacology.
- 4. Identify causes of local anesthetic systemic toxicity (LAST).
- 5. Describe treatment for LAST.
- 6. Discuss allergic reactions to a local anesthetic.

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Dr Fencl has no declared affiliation that could be perceived as posing a potential conflict of interest in the publication of this article.

The behavioral objectives for this program were created by Liz Cowperthwaite, BA, senior managing editor, and Rebecca Holm, MSN, RN, CNOR, clinical editor, with consultation from Susan Bakewell, MS, RN-BC, director, Perioperative Education. Ms Cowperthwaite, Ms Holm, and Ms Bakewell have no declared affiliations that could be perceived as posing potential conflicts of interest in the publication of this article.

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ABSTRACT

It is not uncommon in perioperative settings for patients to receive local anesthesia for a variety of procedures. It is imperative for patient safety that the perioperative RN has a comprehensive understanding of best practices associated with the use of local anesthesia. The updated AORN "Guideline for care of the patient receiving local anesthesia" provides guidance on perioperative nursing assessments and interventions to safely care for patients receiving local anesthesia. This article focuses on key points of the guideline to help perioperative personnel become knowledgeable regarding best practice as they care for this patient population. The key points address patient assessment, the importance of having an overall understanding of the local agent being used, recommended monitoring requirements, and potential adverse events, including life-threatening events. Perioperative RNs should review the complete guideline for additional information and for guidance when writing and updating policies and procedures. AORN J 101 (June 2015) 683-689. © AORN, Inc, 2015. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aorn.2015.04.014

Key words: local anesthesia, pharmacology, patient safety, local anesthetic systemic toxicity.

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