
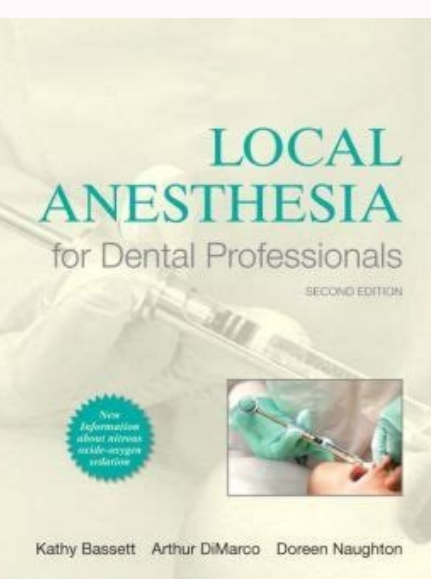


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**Anesthesia for Laparoscopic Surgery**

**History and Benefits**

- > 1910 – Hans Christian Jacobaeus (Sweden) performed first laparoscopic procedure on a human
- > **Benefits**
  - Smaller incision
  - Reduced post-op pain
  - Decreased post-op ileus
  - Earlier ambulation and shorter hospital stay

**Conclusions from neurological complications attributed to labor and delivery**

- **Not rare (estim. incid 1: 2530)**
- **often accompanied by a prolonged and difficult labor**
- **if assoc with regional anesth, again associated with a prolonged and difficult labor**
- **they do not constitute a risk factor per se**
- **but...call for higher standards of practice**

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**Use of epidural anaesthesia for surgery in a patient with Kennedy's disease**

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Use of neuraxial block in a patient with motor neuron disease is controversial. We describe the anaesthetic management by epidural anaesthesia of a patient with Kennedy's disease, a rare lower motor neuron disease characterized by progressive weakness and wasting of limbs and bulbar muscles. The perioperative course was uneventful, and there was no exacerbation of neurologic signs or symptoms. We suggest that a patient with Kennedy's disease may be successfully managed by epidural anaesthesia for surgical internal urethrotomy.

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**Keywords:** anaesthetic techniques, epidural, complications, genetic disease, X-linked, complications, Kennedy's disease, complications, motor neuron disease, lower

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Kennedy's disease is an X-linked lower motor neuron disorder characterized by progressive weakness and wasting of limbs and bulbar muscles.<sup>1</sup> We describe the management by epidural anaesthesia of a patient with Kennedy's disease. Searching Medline data from 1966 to May 2003 revealed no previous case reports of anaesthetic management of this disease.

**Case report**

A 57-yr-old, 61 kg, 163 cm, man was undergoing an internal urethrotomy for urethral stenosis. He had first noticed muscle weakness in the proximal part of the lower limbs at age 50. Six years later, he was diagnosed as suffering from Kennedy's disease. Physical examination revealed atrophy, weakness and fasciculations in the lower and upper limb muscles, and diminished deep tendon reflexes in the lower and upper extremities. He had slurred speech and slight difficulties in swallowing. Other findings included fasciculation and atrophy of the tongue and facial muscles. Gynecomastia was also apparent. Needle electromyogram (EMG) revealed large polyphasic motor units in the affected muscles, which were consistent with the diagnosis. Laboratory studies included a plasma creatine kinase concentration of 1223 u litre<sup>-1</sup> (normal range 43-120 u litre<sup>-1</sup>).

After detailed discussion and with the agreement of the patient, management by epidural anaesthesia was chosen.

The patient was premedicated with ranitidine (H<sub>2</sub>-blocker), 75 mg, post-orally. An epidural catheter was inserted at the L3-4 interspace and directed 5 cm cephalad. Epidural anaesthesia was established by injecting 10 ml of mepivacaine 2% via the catheter after a test dose of 3 ml of 2% mepivacaine, achieving a sensory block extending to T10. Oxygen was administered through a facemask at 5 litre min<sup>-1</sup>. An additional increment of mepivacaine 2% (5 ml) was given epidurally during the operation. Throughout this period, ECG was normal, SpO<sub>2</sub> greater than 98%, and the patient had no respiratory discomfort. The postoperative course was uneventful, and there was no exacerbation of neurologic signs or symptoms.

**Discussion**

Kennedy's disease is a recessive X-linked adult-onset form of motor neuron disease that is linked to a CAG repeat enlargement within the first exon of the androgen receptor gene.<sup>2</sup> The age of onset of Kennedy's disease is in adolescence and associated with symptoms such as gynecomastia, muscle pain, and premature muscular exhaustion. The number of CAG repeats appears to be correlated with the age of onset of weakness but not with the age of onset of Kennedy's disease.<sup>3</sup> There is a great variability in phenotypical expression and heterogeneity in clinical presentation since the severity of Kennedy's disease is not related to the size of the mutation.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, the

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