

Same Day Breast Surgery Under Thoracic Epidural

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Introduction

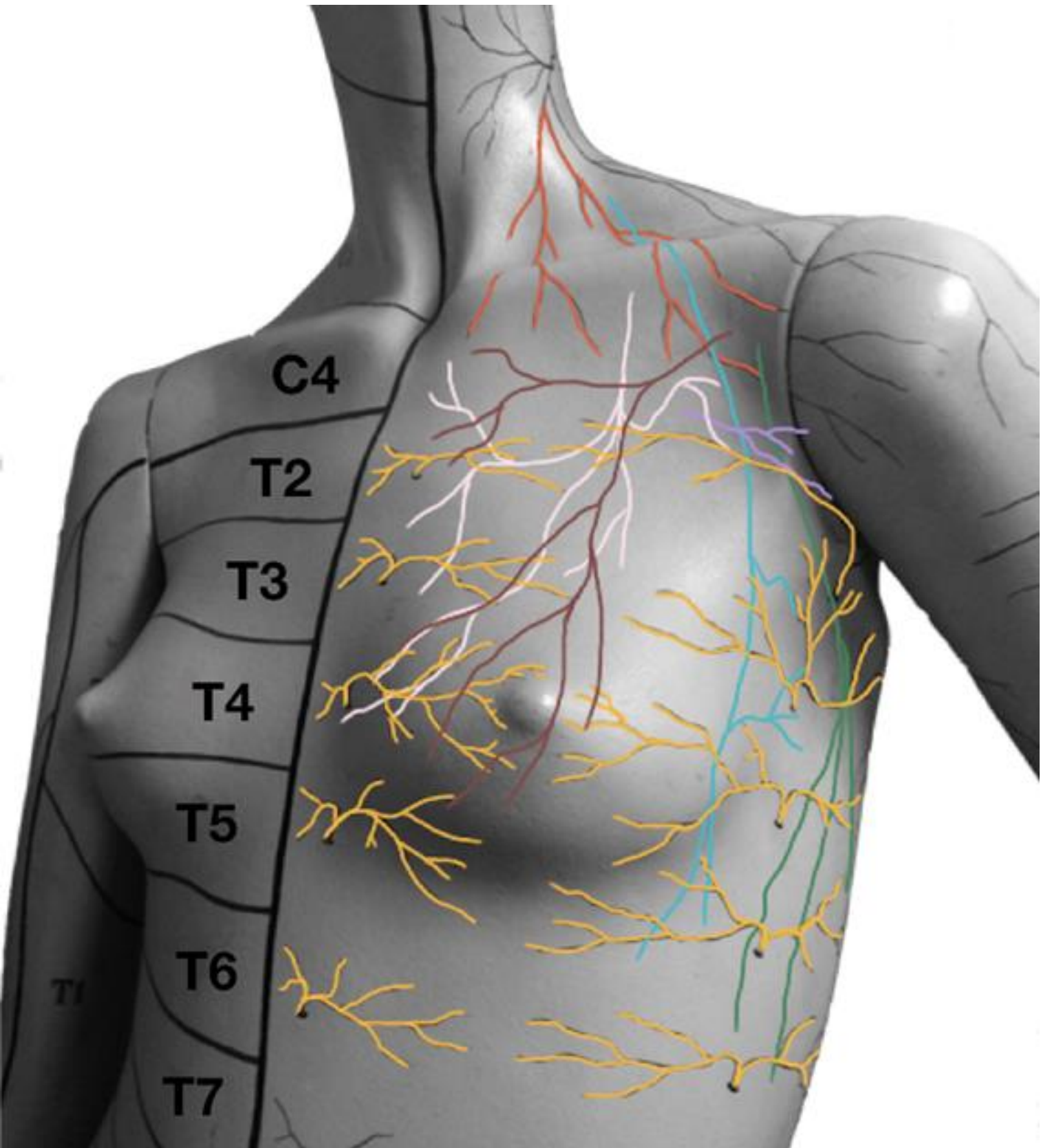
- Breast surgery is usually performed under general anesthesia
- Patients with multiple comorbidities could be at high risk of complications with general anesthesia
- Thoracic epidurals offer an alternative method of anesthesia for high-risk patient during breast surgeries

Case Report

- 72-year-old female with breast cancer and history of LAD ischemia requiring future intervention presents for bilateral partial mastectomies
- History of two prior laryngospasms with intubation, one leading to negative pressure pulmonary edema requiring prolonged intubation
- Perioperative anesthesia clinic: patient requested avoiding any manipulation of airway
- Informed consent on day of surgery discussed risks and benefits of thoracic epidural, as well as the potential to convert to general anesthesia
- Preformed a T7-8 epidural on day of surgery with moderate IV sedation intraoperatively
- Mean arterial pressure was maintained within 20% of patient's baseline pressures
- Avoided general anesthesia and opioid administration
- Discharged home the same day

Discussion

- Thoracic epidurals are a viable alternative to general anesthesia in patients with respiratory or cardiac comorbidities
- Thoracic epidurals offers hemodynamic stability and improved myocardial oxygen balance
- Anticoagulation status needs to be discussed with patient and operative team prior to surgery
- This method can also reduce cost of hospitalization by decreasing length of stay as well as reductions in medication administration



Innervation of the breast. Anterior and lateral branches of intercostal nerves (yellow); supraclavicular nerves (orange); lateral pectoral nerve (brown); medial pectoral nerve (pink); long thoracic nerve (blue); thoracodorsal nerve (green); intercostobrachial (purple).

Pawa A, Wight J, Onwochei DN, et al. Combined thoracic paravertebral and pectoral nerve blocks for breast surgery under sedation: a prospective observational case series. *Anaesthesia*. 2018;73(4):438-443. doi:10.1111/anae.14213

Thoracic Epidurals as the Primary Anesthetic for SAME DAY Breast Surgery is a Viable Alternative in Patients at High Risk for Adverse Outcomes with General Anesthesia

