UNRAVELING THE ENIGMA:

INVESTIGATING NON-BLOCK DELAY FACTORS IN NERVE BLOCK PROCEDURES

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ASRA PAIN MEDICINE 49th Annual Regional Anesthesiology & Acute Pain Medicine Meeting
March 21-23, 2024 | San Diego, CA

Intro

- EMR data relies on human input and is inherently prone to error
- Inaccurate documentation of OR delays occurs for variety of reasons (ie: preventing blame, etc)
- This study evaluated charting accuracy of first-case delays when attributed to the regional anesthesia team and the frequency of delays from three delay categories

Methods

- Monocentric retrospective EMR review from December 1, 2021-December 1, 2022
- Inclusion of all patients receiving single shot or catheter placement in preoperative area by RA team scheduled for first case starts
- Manual data extraction to assess accuracy of documented first-case delays attributed to surgeon, regional or multifactorial causes

Results

- First-case delays documented in 58% of block-receiving patients
- 57.7 % (307/532) multifactorial, 19.9% (106/532) surgeon-related factors, and 22% (119/532) nerve block delays documented
- Only 3.2% of delays correctly attributed to regional
- 49% of documented delays did not actually cause a patient delay according to preop time goal metrics
- Higher incidence of delays on Mondays compared to T-F

Discussion

- Timely preoperative patient preparation is important in preventing downstream delays
- Efforts should be made to improve documentation accuracy so extracted data reflects reality

First case delays were 2.34x more likely to be documented as a ”block delay” or ”regional anesthesia” delay if late preoperative patient preparation occurred.

When first case delays were documented, the Regional Anesthesia team was incorrectly identified as the cause in up to 85% of cases.

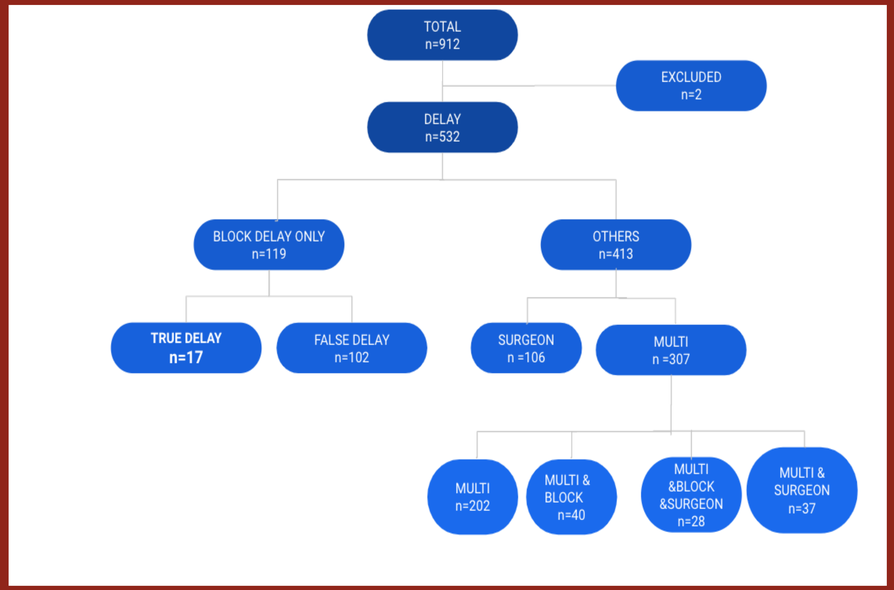
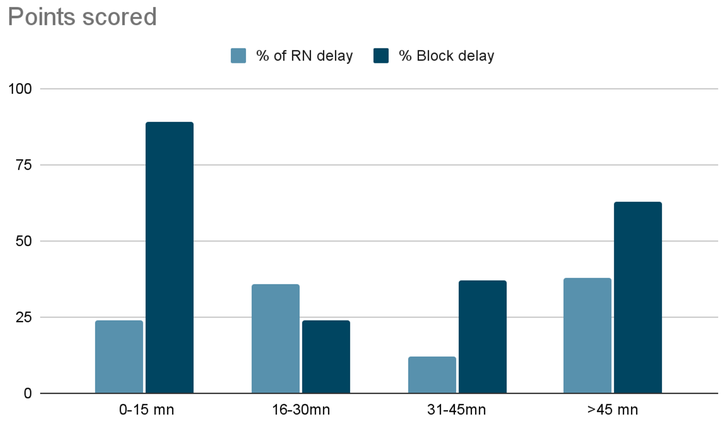


Image 1: Delay categories and included data



Contingency Table (population = 1st case Delay) (Total)

OR = 2,34

	Cases = Block Delay	Controls = Non Block Delay
Exposed = RN Delay	98	225
Non Exposed = RN ‘On Time’	21	113

Exposure = RN Delay
Non exposure = No RN Delay

Table 1 & 2: Relative risk & Delay odds ratio

*References available by scanning QR code

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