

INTRODUCTION

In patients receiving dual organ transplantation, postoperative pain control is often a significant challenge because an extensive incision is required for surgical exposure and the neuraxial approach is often contraindicated.

We present two cases advocating for alternative regional anesthetic techniques:

- (1) High-risk multi-organ transplant
- (2) Combined open cardiac surgery with abdominal organ transplantation

CASE 1

A 64-year-old male with short telomere syndrome complicated by interstitial lung disease and cirrhosis underwent a dual liver and bilateral orthotopic lung transplant.

Regional Technique: bilateral serratus anterior and external oblique intercostal (EOI) plane blocks with bupivacaine 0.25% and liposomal bupivacaine

CASE 2

A 59-year-old male with decompensated cirrhosis and multivessel coronary artery disease underwent a 2-vessel coronary artery bypass graft and orthotopic liver transplant.

Regional Technique: superficial parasternal and EOI plane blocks with bupivacaine 0.25% and liposomal bupivacaine

SERRATUS ANTERIOR PLANE BLOCK

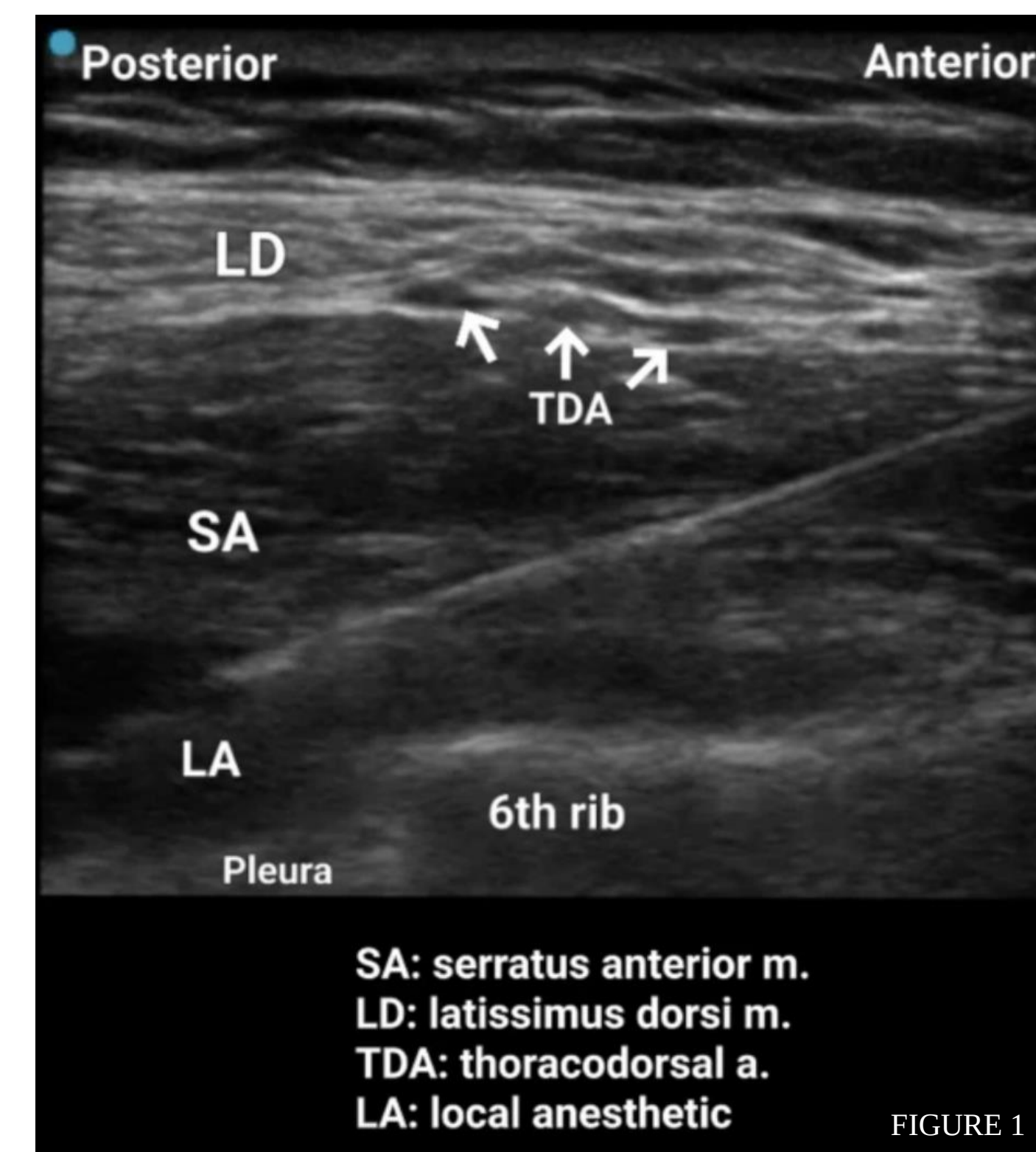


FIGURE 1

SUPERFICIAL PARASTERNAL PLANE BLOCK

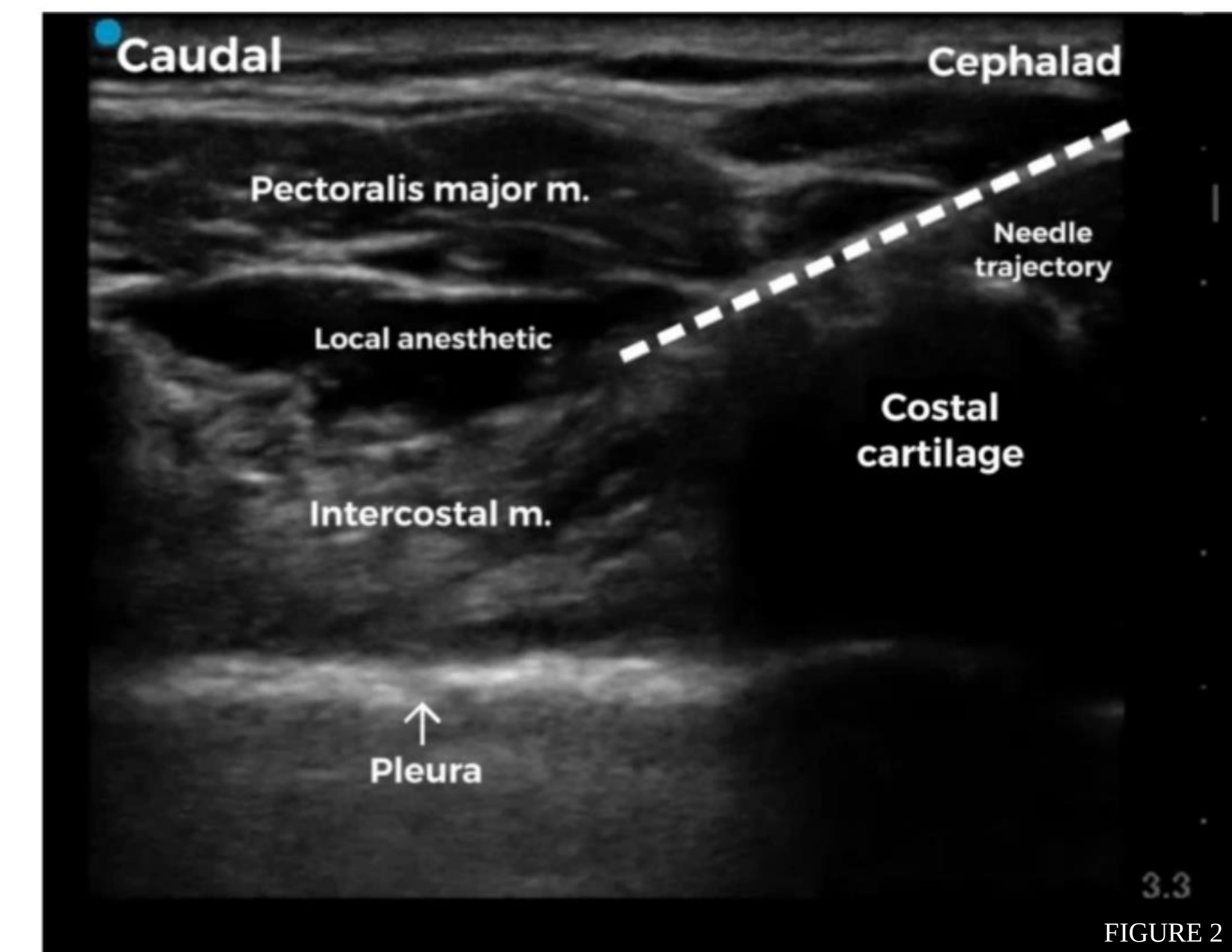


FIGURE 2

DISCUSSION

Inadequately controlled postsurgical pain can have profound consequences on a patient's hemodynamics, myocardial oxygen demand, incidence of postoperative delirium, pulmonary function, and length of stay in the ICU and hospital.

It is beneficial to advocate for alternate regional techniques for high-risk multi-organ transplant patients.

Fascial plane blocks are favorable because:

- Sonoanatomy is easy to identify
- Somatic coverage can be tailored to the surgical incision
- Can be performed on anticoagulated patients
- Do not alter hemodynamics
- Can be performed in the supine position

REFERENCES

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5. Figure 3 & 4: Nimma, Sindhuja, et al. "#35053 external oblique intercostal fascial plane block for patients undergoing liver transplantation: A case series." *Postoperative Pain Management (ACUTE)*, Sept. 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1136/rapm-2023-esra.605>.

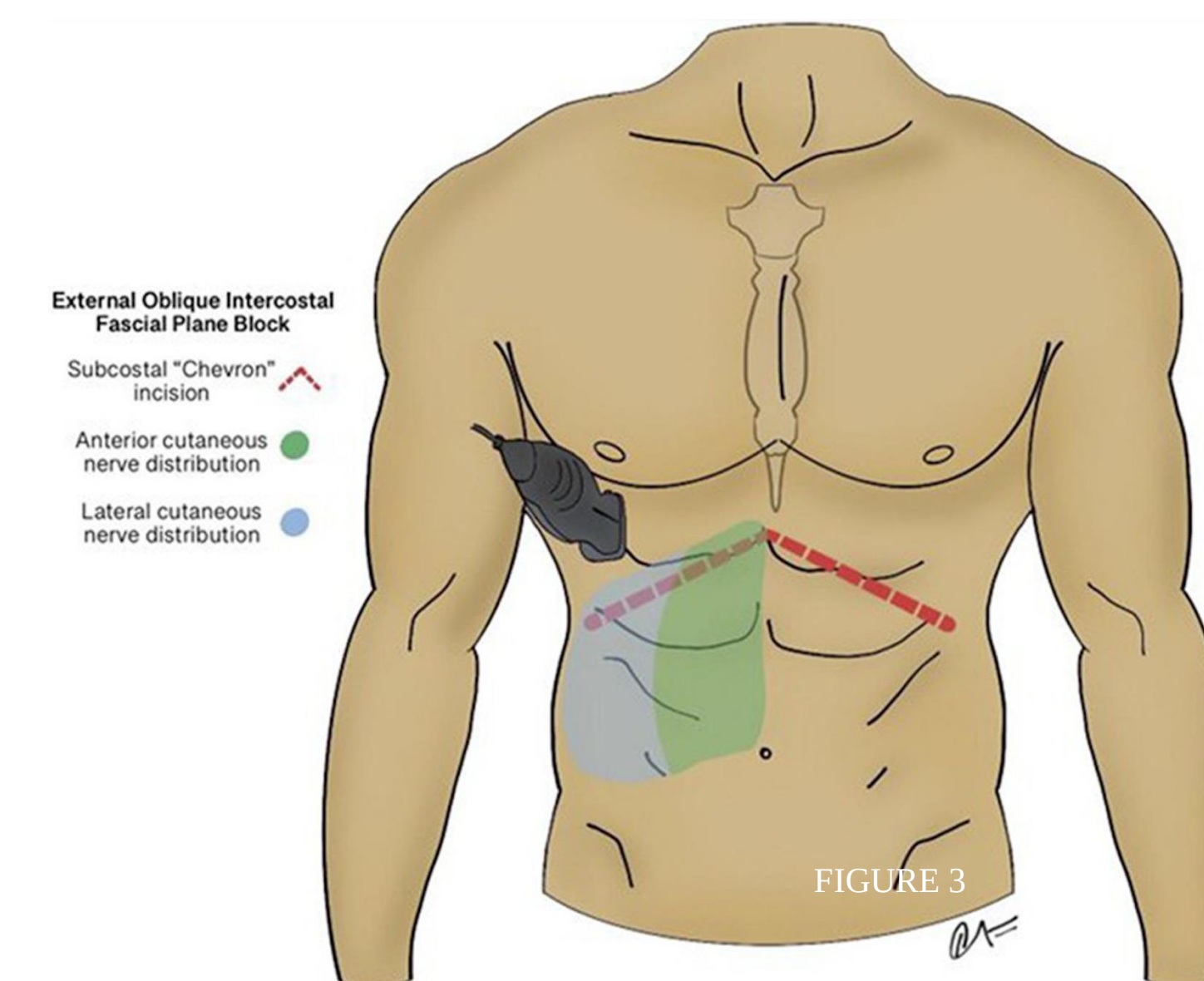


FIGURE 3

EOI PLANE BLOCK

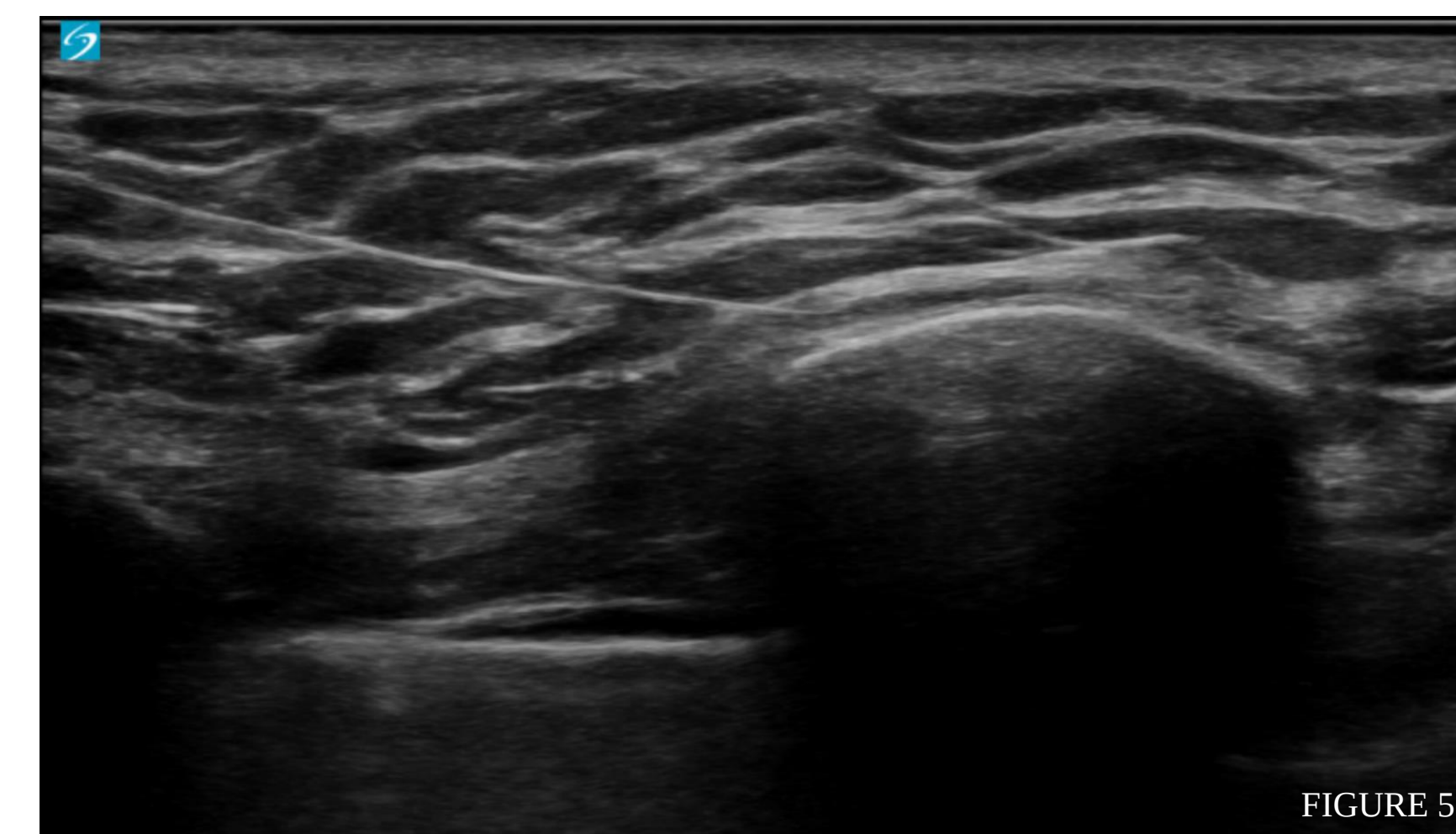


FIGURE 5

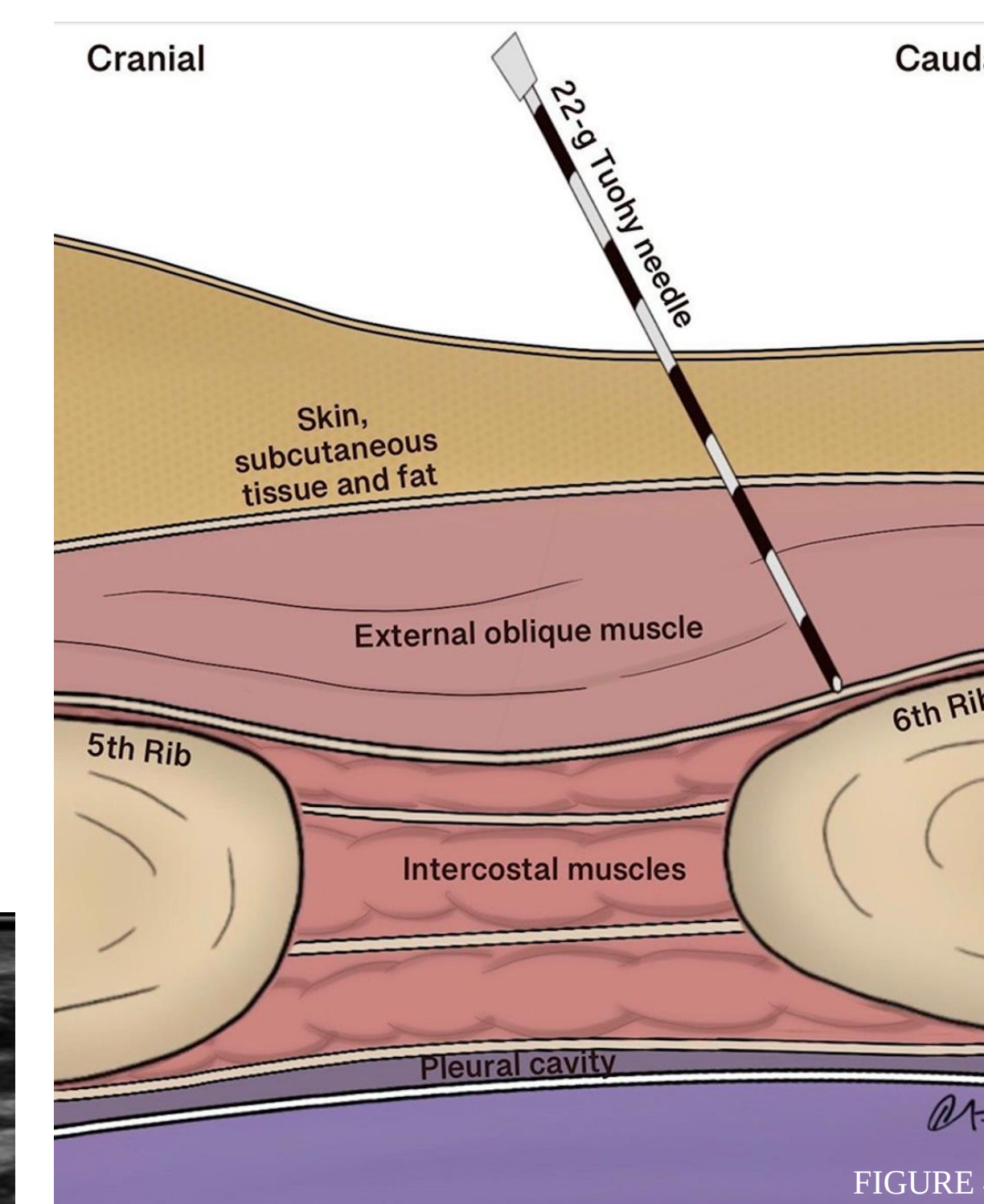


FIGURE 4