



An Intermediate Technique between Interscalene and Supraclavicular Blocks for Combined Clavicle and Olecranon Surgery

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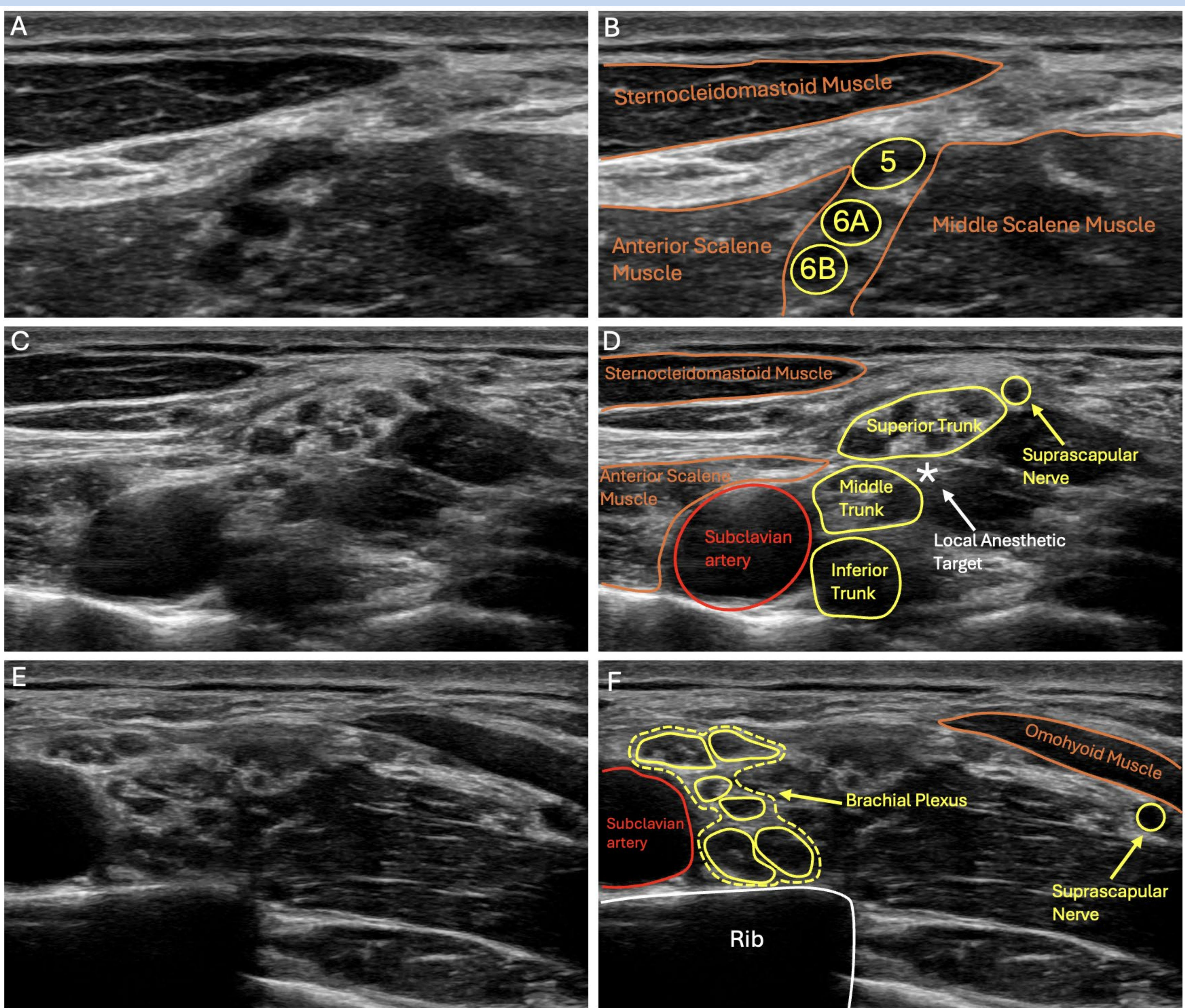
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INTRODUCTION

- Conventionally, interscalene brachial plexus blocks (ISBs) are utilized for postoperative analgesia following shoulder surgery as the suprascapular nerve is generally spared with more distal blocks.
- For clavicle surgery, the combination of ISB and cervical plexus block has been reported to provide excellent analgesia².
- More distal blocks of the brachial plexus must be utilized for surgery distal to the mid-humerus, as the ISB is associated with sparing of the ulnar nerve³.

CASE REPORT

- A 73-year-old male presented after falling from his bike and sustaining right medial clavicle and intra-articular olecranon fractures requiring surgical fixation and a CPNB was planned for postoperative analgesia.
- A single injection superficial cervical plexus block was performed with bupivacaine 0.5% (10 mL).
- The patient was discharged approximately 1-hour following surgery with an infusion of ropivacaine 0.2% via the perineural catheter (8 mL per hour continuous, 4 mL patient-controlled bolus, 30-minute lockout, 500 mL reservoir) and, upon follow up, the patient described excellent pain control.
- The C5 and C6 nerve roots were identified between the anterior and middle scalene muscles—a conventional ISB location (Figure A/B).



- The brachial plexus was traced distally to identify 1) the branching of the suprascapular nerve and 2) the coalescence of all three trunks of the plexus (Figure C/D).
- Utilizing an in-plane technique, a 17G Tuohy needle was inserted to a point adjacent to the plexus between these two locations [Figure E/F].

DISCUSSION

- In this case, an intermediate technique between ISB and SCB provided excellent analgesia for olecranon and clavicle surgery.
- This case highlights the importance of a detailed understanding of peripheral nerve sonoanatomy—beyond simply identifying the most conventional nerve block locations—for the regional anesthesiologist.

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