

BACKGROUND

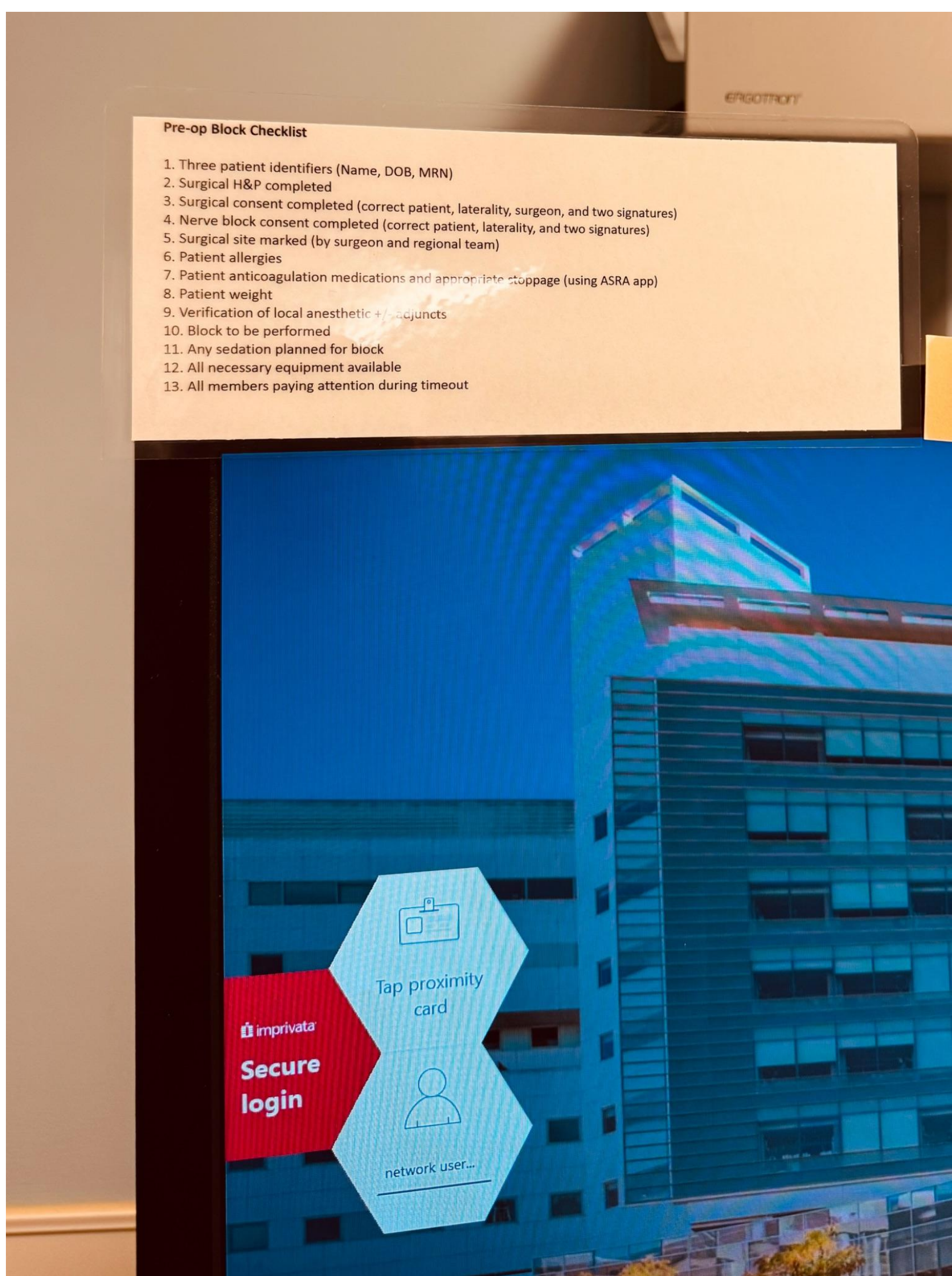
- Pre-operative timeouts before regional anesthesia reduce wrong-site procedures and improve patient safety.¹
- Surgical Universal Protocol has limited applicability to regional anesthesia.²
- Three important steps: verify correct site using multiple sources, including patient, physically mark site, and perform pre-block timeout.³
- Much variability in timeout process at our institution → developed QI to standardize

METHODS



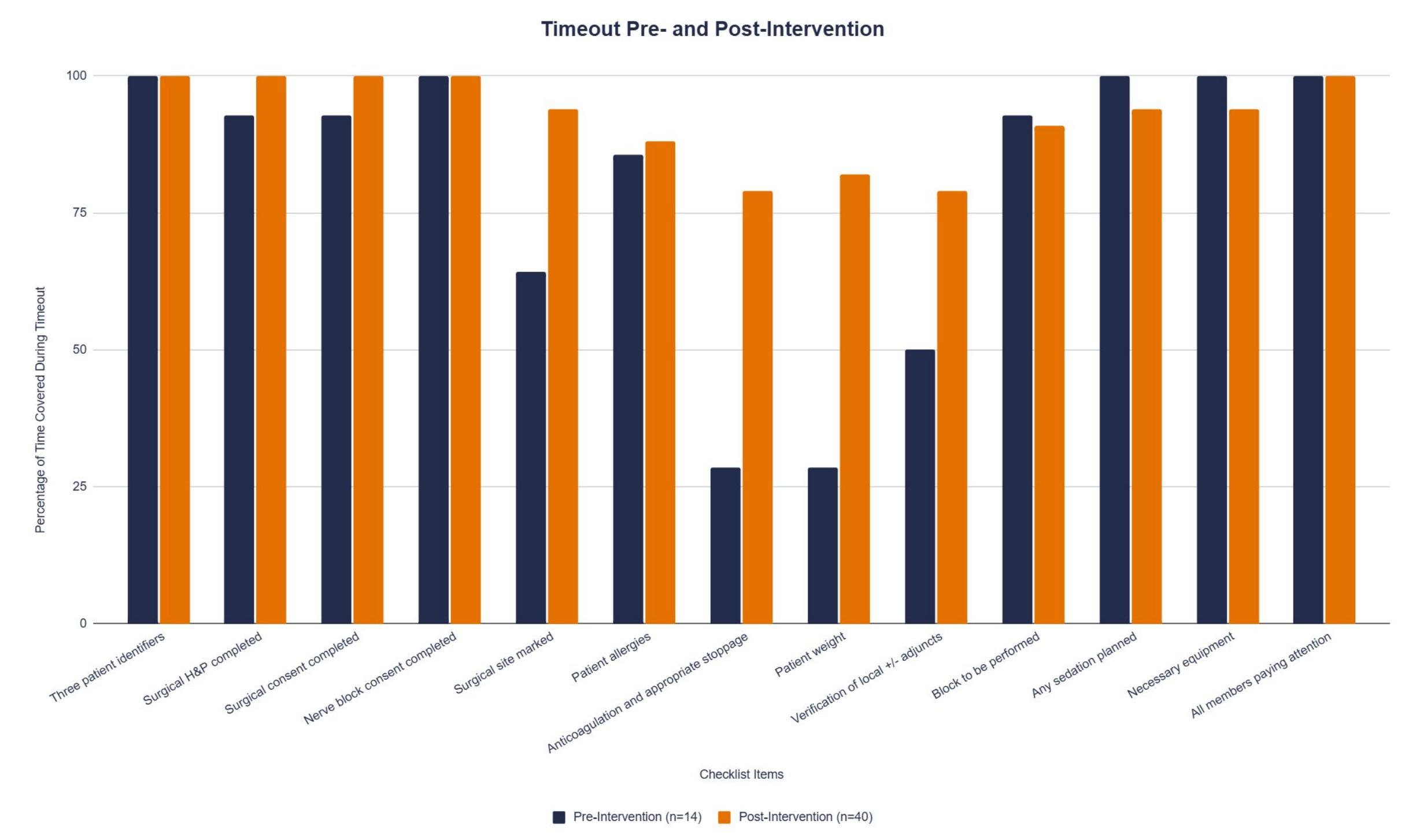
INTERVENTION: STANDARDIZED TIMEOUT

Pre-Block Timeout Checklist
1. Three patient identifiers (Name, DOB, MRN)
2. Surgical H&P completed
3. Surgical consent completed (correct patient, laterality, surgeon, and two signatures)
4. Nerve block consent completed (correct patient, laterality, and two signatures)
5. Surgical site marked (by surgeon and regional team)
6. Patient allergies
7. Patient anticoagulation medications and appropriate stoppage (using ASRA app)
8. Patient weight
9. Verification of local anesthetic +/- adjuncts
10. Block to be performed
11. Any sedation planned for block
12. All necessary equipment available
13. All members paying attention during timeout



The primary goals were to implement a more standardized pre-block timeout process and improve the safety of patients undergoing nerve blocks at our institution.

RESULTS



DISCUSSION

- Several checklist items unchanged - high rates of coverage pre- and post-intervention
- Several checklist items dramatically improved - visual aid helped providers remember to discuss
- Several checklist items slightly decreased - sample size difference between pre- and post-intervention
- Overall feedback from regional team positive, suggestion to have two provider timeout - provider performing procedure to take over at local verification

FUTURE STEPS

- Expand the checklist to our main operating room area and our outpatient orthopedic location
- Place checklist on each of our ultrasound machines for PACU or floor blocks – procedures being performed outside of our typical regional anesthesia areas
- Create badge cards to be worn by our regional team members
- Discuss current timeout process with colleagues at other institutions to make further improvements

References

1. Arbizo JC, Dalal K, Lao V, et al. Safe preoperative regional nerve blocks. *BMJ Open Quality* 2022;**11**:e001370. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2021-001370
2. Mulroy MF, Weller RS, Liguori GA. A checklist for performing regional nerve blocks. *Reg Anesth Pain Med* 2014;**39**: 195-199
3. Deutsch ES, Yonash RA, Martin DE, Atkins JH, Arnold TV, Hunt CM. Wrong-site nerve blocks: A systematic literature review to guide principles for prevention. *J Clin Anesth.* 2018 May;**46**:101-111. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinane.2017.12.008. Epub 2018 Mar 2. PMID: 29505959.