

Introduction

- The transition for anesthesia residents into the acute pain service (APS) rotations can come with challenges due to the intricacies and knowledge required on this service.
- Residents can be faced with the task of managing complex pain patients, along with issues arising from peripheral nerve catheters, epidurals and various pain medication infusions.
- Lack of knowledge and experiences with these issues can not only negatively affect residents' confidence in these areas, but can also lead to inefficiencies in patient care.
- This Quality Improvement (QI) project aims to enhance the introduction of anesthesia residents to the APS service by implementing a standardized resident handbook

Methods

- A structured resident handbook was created which highlighted common issues that can occur on the acute pain service.
- This handbook included how to troubleshoot epidurals, peripheral nerve catheters, lidocaine and ketamine infusions, PCA's and emergency situations.
- A needs assessment was then conducted via survey among anesthesia residents. This survey highlighted residents' comfortability with APS procedures, issues, and problems that can arise while on service.
- The handbook was adjusted to include this resident feedback and was edited by APS staff. The handbook was then distributed to residents and incoming CA-1's to be used as a guide throughout the year while they were on service.

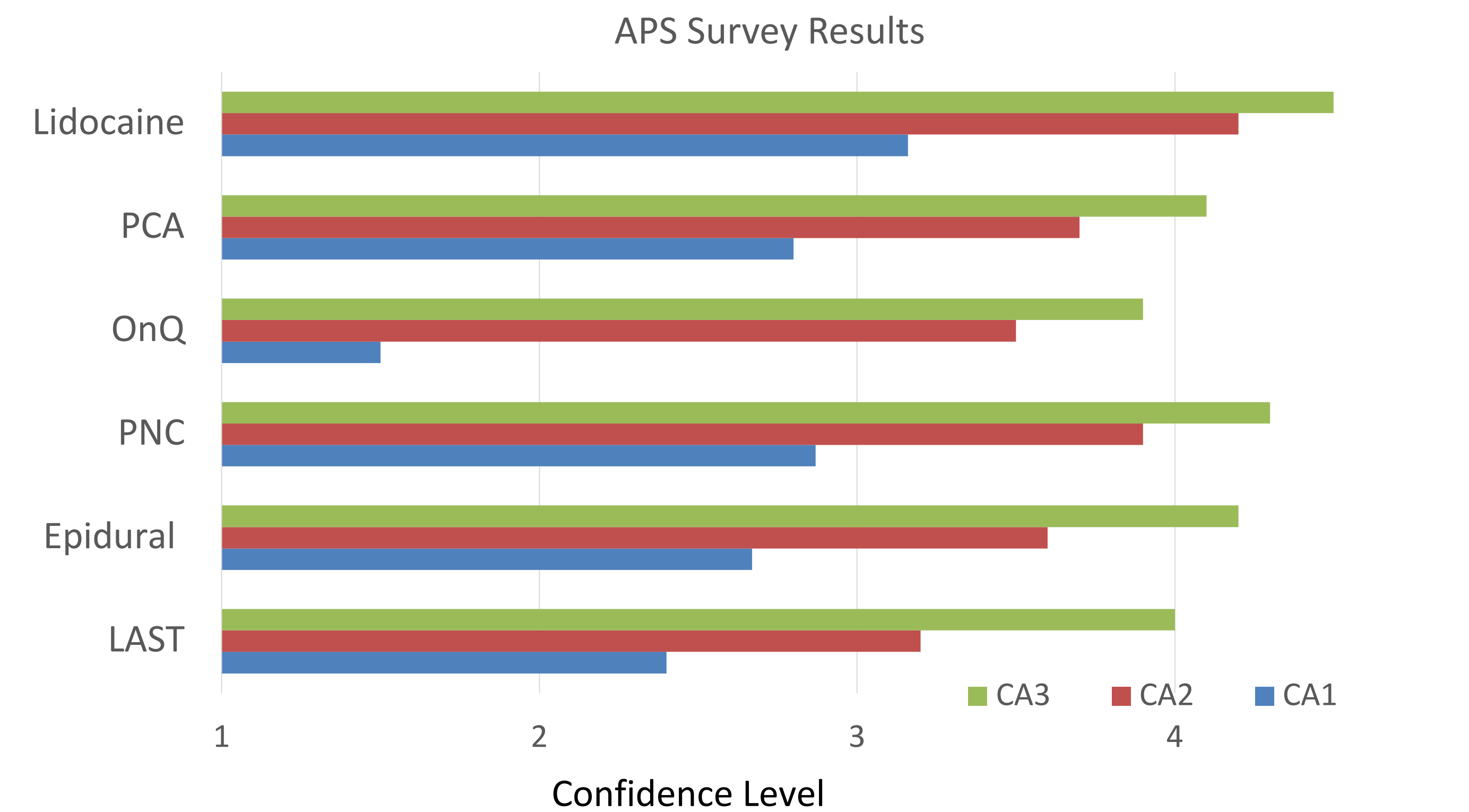


Fig 1. Pre-handbook survey results

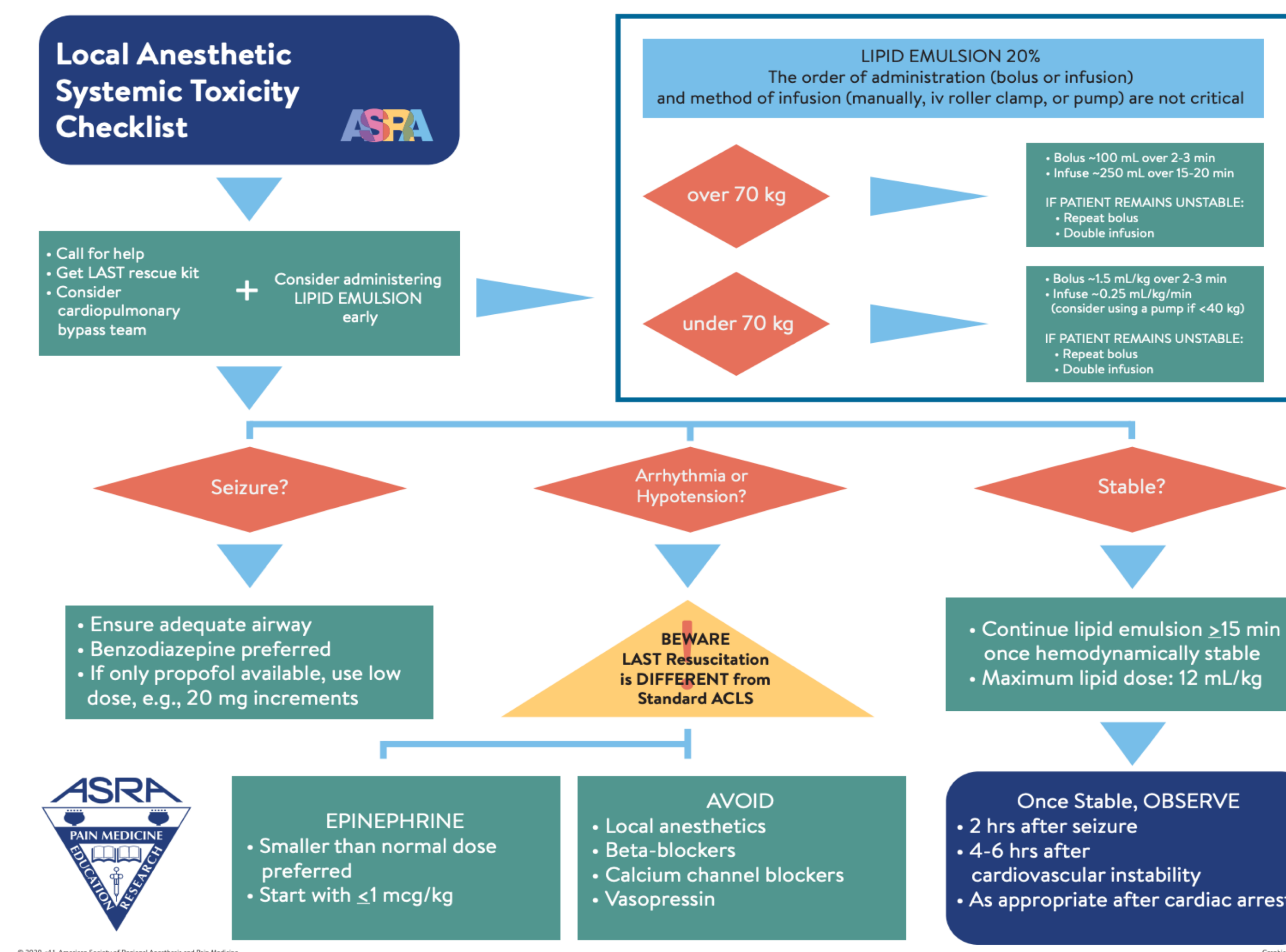


Fig 2. LAST Management¹

Results

- Results from the initial survey included 25 resident responses.
- Ranked comfort with APS issued. 1 = least confident, 5 = most confident
- LAST, epidural, OnQ pump, and PCA management were the topics² with which residents felt the most uncomfortable
- 75% of these residents surveyed agreed that a resident handbook would be helpful while on APS service.

Discussion

- The implementation of a structured APS introduction, including a dedicated resident handbook, has potential to improve confidence, knowledge, and efficiency in managing acute pain patients for residents on this service.
- The survey discussed above, though limited in sample size, does demonstrate multiple APS topics where residents are not completely confident in their abilities or knowledge base.
- The goal of this handbook is to provide residents with a resource to supplement their knowledge while rotating on APS to help guide them through the various issues they may encounter.
- Our next steps will be to gather more information and data to determine if residents find this resource helpful and increase their confidence while on service.

References

- [Checklist for LAST Management.](#) ASRA Pain Medicine Update, 2020
- [A guide to epidural management.](#) Br J Hosp Med. McLaren et al. 2020