

DH255 LABORATORY ACTIVITIES

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Visualization

The study of local anesthesia techniques involves forming mental images of nerves and their positions relative to surrounding structures. The student must visualize in three dimensions as well as employ “x-ray vision” to picture structures which are hidden under tissue. Proper visualization can change a burdensome memory chore into intriguing exploration. As you read your text, imagine yourself giving the injection. Project in your mind the path of the needle as it approaches the target nerve. Actually try the operator positions described in the text and pretend you are administering local anesthesia. Handle your syringe; get the “feel” of it. Allow the syringe to feel as comfortable in your hand as any other instrument does.

Dress Code

Students are expected to wear pre-clinic lab attire to all labs. Hair must be worn as you would in clinic, secure and out of the face. If dressed inappropriately, the student will be sent out of the lab.

Supplies

Students must have an autoclaved syringe for each laboratory. Evaluation forms must be secured to a clipboard at the unit for credit to be given. Books, notes, and handouts may be used during the lab.

Lab Schedule

Students are assigned different partners each week. No special request of any kind will be accommodated. Each student will have a designated time to receive 1:1 instruction from an instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to be ready at the designated time, with patient in the chair and topical anesthetic applied to tissue.

Evaluations

An instructor will evaluate each injection performed in lab. **NO INJECTION MAY BE GIVEN WITHOUT DIRECT SUPERVISION BY AN INSTRUCTOR.** Students may practice with the syringe with the needle capped until the instructor arrives for evaluation. After an injection has been given twice successfully, then additional practice may be completed in clinic. The evaluation form must be given to the clinical evaluator prior to the injection. No credit will be given towards the lab requirement but it is an excellent way to gain practice and confidence.

Charts

Student charts must be filled out at the end of the lab and presented in a designated area for the evaluator to read and sign. The following entry should be made:

1. Med hx review and/or update
2. vital signs, record B.P.
3. Record anesthetic used (include epi if used) eg. lidocaine 2%, 1:100,00 epi

4. Record amount of solution deposited: record total amounts, not individual amounts for each injection given.
5. List type of injections and location: e.g. Rt. PSA, Rt. MSA, Rt. ASA
6. Record outcomes, including complications, if any. : procedure well-tolerated, profound anesthesia obtained, no adverse reaction, inadequate depth of anesthesia, inadequate duration of anesthesia

Lab Time

The lab is not over until 1:30 PM. All students are expected to make use of the time in lab. If you and your partner's time is complete, the time should be spent on practicing other injections (placement and visualization, not actual tissue penetration). All students should help in closing the clinic, not just the lab managers.

Preparation

Prior to the student's evaluation time, the student should have completed the following:

1. Review med hx, record partner's b.p.
2. look at site and visualize nerve pathway
3. practice good, secure tissue retraction
4. work with light to obtain maximum visibility.
5. dry area with gauze square
6. Place topical anesthetic at site of penetration
7. Talk through procedure including penetration site, deposition rate, nerve anesthetized, landmarks, and amount to be used
8. Utilize syringe, capped, to obtain proper angles and hand positions

After completing the injections, be prepared to administer at least two other injections if time permits during your evaluation time. Make use of each lab. The requirements are minimum for competency. The more you do the better you will become.

Evaluation form

The evaluation form (injections form) is a record of what you have completed. **DO NOT LOSE IT!** Keep it in your locker or other safe place, so that it is available for lab and clinic. **DO NOT** take it home. Good and passing grades do not need to be repeated. Competence comes with knowledge and practice, the more you can accomplish in clinic, the better you will become. Extra injections in lab may be written at the end of the form. All injections should be counted and signed by an instructor.

Patients

When you are the patient for your partner, be as calm as you possibly can. You will make it very difficult for your partner if you "jump" each time you are touched. Work on relaxation techniques. Your partner's grade has a great deal to do with the way you act as a patient.