Case Report

Subdural Block—From a Spinal? A Case Report

S Y Chan,* MBBS, M Med (Anaes), E L Ong,** MBBS, M Med (Anaes)

Abstract

Introduction: Multicompartmental blocks are commonly described in epidurals but not spinalis. We describe a case of subarachnoid block performed in an obese patient which resulted in a clinical presentation resembling that of a subdural block. Clinical picture: A 29-year-old woman, scheduled for saucerisation of thigh carbuncle, was administered 2.1mL of hyperbaric bupivacaine. The spinal resulted in a late onset of sensory block that extended to the neck and upper limbs. There was no sympathetic or motor blockade. Treatment/Outcome: The block receded spontaneously without causing any cardiovascular or respiratory compromise. Conclusions: The diagnosis of subdural block must be considered in patients with unusual presentations after a spinal anaesthetic. Factors affecting spread of hyperbaric bupivacaine are also highlighted.

Key words: Complications, Hyperbaric bupivacaine, Obesity, Regional anaesthesia

* Registrar
** Associate Consultant
Department of Anaesthesia
Changi General Hospital
Address for Reprints: Dr Chan Sher Yi, Department of Anaesthesia, Changi General Hospital, 2 Simei Street 3, Singapore 529889.