

Peripheral Nerve Blocks and Other Interventional Procedures for Headache and Face Pain
Special Interest Section

AHS 2012 Section Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 22, 2012
7AM-8AM

Attendants: Matthew Robbins, David Tanner, Brad Klein, Andrew Blumenfeld, Jeffrey Frank, Baha Abuesheh, RO Millan Guerrero, John Wendt, Bradford Talcott, Randall Berliner, Hanna Saadah, Jack Schim, Andrew Dowson, Jessica Ailani, Brian Grosberg, Deborah Friedman, Jason Rosenberg, Larry Charleston IV, Ian Finkelstein

1. The meeting was called to order by Matthew Robbins, who introduced himself as the new section chair and appreciated the strong showing in attendance by the section members.
2. The past chair, Andrew Blumenfeld, was acknowledged by the section for his 4 years of leadership. The section's achievements during his tenure were highlighted, including a course put together at the AAN 2010, and manuscripts published in headache highlighting AHS membership practice patterns and a systematic literature review, as well as the PNB methods paper that is in its final stages.
3. Ongoing and recently completed projects were then discussed.
 1. Deborah Friedman invited members of the section (Andrew Blumenfeld and Matthew Robbins) to submit a "Headache Fact Sheet" on PNBs for the AHS website, which was submitted and should be published online and in print in the coming months.
 2. The section was recently invited to contribute material on onabotulinumtoxinA to ACHE. Members Andrew Blumenfeld, Avi Ashkenazi, Matthew Robbins, and Jessica Ailani each wrote companion articles that together were the feature of an ACHE newsletter, published both online and as the newsletter for May 2012.
 3. The PNB methods manuscript was then discussed. The section was updated on the manuscript's premise, the many contributors, and it's recent status as being accepted for publication in *Headache*. The AHS board meeting that took place the day prior was to decide on the status of the manuscript to be published as an official consensus statement endorsed by the AHS, and if not it would be published as a narrative review by our section. The section is awaiting a written response from the AHS board, but some of the section members already believe that the board will not endorse the manuscript. Matthew Robbins and Andrew Blumenfeld emphasized to the group that although that would be disappointing, the manuscript is on its own very strong, and will be the definitive note in the literature on the procedural details for the performance of PNBs, and could be a highly cited manuscript.
4. Jessica Ailani, the principal investigator, updated the membership on the AHS sponsored multi-center observational registry study on PNBs in clinical practice. She described the progress so far, which includes:

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1. Recruiting a large number of both academic and private practice sites.
2. Writing the protocol and both distributing it to the sites, as well as submitting it to the AHS designated central IRB for the private practice sites.
3. Awaiting IRB approval. To date 3 sites have received IRB approval but many more are anticipated in the immediate future.
4. Andrew Blumenfeld suggested that a conference call among the site PIs take place in a month or so. As a part of the call, the site PIs would be encouraged to follow the PNB methods outlined by our recent manuscript, even though the manuscript was not deemed appropriate for inclusion in the protocol by the AHS/AMF leadership.
5. The membership expressed profound appreciation for Jessica Ailani's leadership and work on this long-term project.

4. New / potential projects

1. The group discussed drafting another section consensus statement, which would be detailing the methodology for the performance of trigger point injections (TPIs). A preliminary discussion ensued. The group agreed that the manuscript would be confined to TPIs, not tender point injections, and that it would be confined to the use of local anesthetics, avoiding discussions Matthew Robbins said he would reach out to Stephen Silberstein who chairs the guidelines committee to see if the AHS board would be willing to endorse the manuscript as a consensus statement, or if our group should just have the expectation that (as it may be for the PNB methods paper) it will be a narrative review put forth by our section. He will also email out .pdf files of references for TPIs to interested members at the meeting and non-attendees whose interest would be anticipated. The members agreed that the next section meeting, tentatively to take place at the Scottsdale Headache Symposium in November 2012, would be the time for a consensus for TPI methods to be discussed before writing the manuscript.

1. The sub-committee of members who expressed interest in being involved in the TPI methods paper included: Matthew Robbins, Andrew Blumenfeld, Brad Klein, Baha Abuesheh, Bradford Talcott, Randall Berliner, Hanna Saadah, Jessica Ailani, Brian Grosberg, Deborah Friedman, Jason Rosenberg, Larry Charleston IV.

5. Other discussions

1. A brief discussion concerned credentialing for the performance of PNBs among residents and fellows. Many of the section members permitted residents and fellows to perform PNBs and TPIs under their direct supervision, but without a clear protocol for number of observed procedures before their independent performance under supervision. No action plan was taken as devising a curriculum plan and credentialing

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program would be considered after publication status of the PNB and TPI methods papers would be achieved.

2. Some of the members expressed concern that they were not receiving emails from AHS in regards to the section. Matthew Robbins informed the section that he would look into this problem with AHS management at Talley.

Submitted by Matthew Robbins