

Peripheral Nerve Blocks & Other Interventional Procedures for Headache
Special Interest Section

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 24, 2010

Present: Andrew Blumenfeld, MD, Chair; Pamela Blake, MD; Brian Grosberg, MD; Matthew Robbins, MD; Frank Conidi, MD; Andy Dowson, MBBS, PhD; Jack Schim, MD; Uri Napchan, MD; Randall Berliner, MD; David Tanner, DO; Donald Primack, DDS; Steve Bender, DDS; Brad Klein, MD, MBA; Paul Winner, DO; Victoria Wexley, DDS; Michele Jehenson, DDS; Graham Scanlon, MD; Baha Abu-Esheh, MD, MBBS; Ira Turner, MD; Deborah Reed, MD; Jessica Ailani, MD; Larry Charleston, IV, MD; Chong-hau Zhao, MD, PhD, DABMA; William Young, MD; Deborah Friedman, MD, MPH

Staff: Andrea Taylor

Dr. Blumenfeld had all attendees introduce themselves.

In the June issue of *Headache* there are two articles derived from last year's work on nerve blocks and trigger point injections. One of the articles is a survey of the AHS membership on nerve blocks and trigger points; the other is a review article on published data for these procedures. This latter article is designed to support letters of medical necessity for these procedures.

The section's proposal on Peripheral Nerve Blocks and Botulinum Toxin Injections for Headache was accepted as a Pre-Course at the upcoming Scottsdale Headache Symposium®. A similar presentation was accepted and completed at the AAN meeting in Toronto 2010.

Dr. Blumenfeld explained that guidelines were given at the Section Chair meeting that morning. The Board would like the Sections to have a greater presence. There may be an opportunity at each meeting for the Sections to provide a brief update of their work. He asked for volunteers in case this opportunity was approved. These updates will include the latest information but also the basics for younger providers to learn the procedures.

This Section is gaining momentum due to representation at AAN and the Scottsdale proposal acceptance. Anyone interested in becoming more involved should contact Dr. Blumenfeld. He encouraged the membership to be involved in the presentations and also in the planned projects and this would be the avenue to be included on the authorship list.

Dr. Blumenfeld would like to design a study for nerve blocks. There are currently no significant double-blind studies. He shared his idea with David Dodick. The Section would be able to apply for a grant through the American Migraine Foundation and Barry Baumel. He also spoke to Dr. Dodick about developing a position paper on the use of OnaBotulinum toxin type A in chronic migraine.. Dr Dodick and Dr Silberstein gave the approval for this to proceed.

Dr. Napchan explained the need to solidify nerve block data. This could lead to better reimbursement from insurance companies.

What types of patients should the procedures be done on? Chronic Migraine, Status Migrainous, Refractory? Also what methods should be used? All participants should use the same technique for the study. The group shared their ideas on patient type and methods. The result of this discussion was that participants will be Chronic Migraine sufferers; the methods will include establishing baseline data, disability, headache days, and intensity. Prophylactic medication will be used. The goal is to be 80-90% effective with block. No steroids will be used, because they do not seem to make a lot of difference. Consensus was built around the method of injections for trigeminal and occipital nerve blocks.

Volunteers for Study Sites for nerve blocks

Jessica Ailani Brad Klein
Deborah Reed Frank Conidi
Ira Turner Chong Hao Zhao
Victoria Wexley Michelle Jehensen
Randall Berliner Steven Bender
Brian Grosberg David Tanner
Andrew Blumenfeld

The group will meet again in Scottsdale to practice technique. There will be a subcommittee formed to work on the protocol.

This sub-group will be lead by Dr Napchan. The volunteers will work via e mail to develop an outline which could be submitted for funding and also develop a full protocol.

Subcommittee – inclusion and exclusion criteria

Uri Napchan Deborah Friedman
Pamela Blake Jessica Ailani
Chong Hao Zhao

Dr. Blumenfeld would like a position paper on Botox moved forward quickly that will just address chronic migraine. He would like this paper published by the end of the year. This fills the gap left by the AAN guideline paper which stated that the use of OnaBotulinum toxin in chronic migraine was still unclear. Recent published data makes it timely to revisit this.

Volunteers for Position Paper

Jack Schim (leader)

Andrew Blumenfeld Ira Turner

Frank Conidi Deborah Reed

Paul Winner Brian Grosberg

Uri Napchan Larry Charleston, IV

Chong Hao Zhao Andy Dowson

Avi Ashkenazi Matthew Robbins

Jessica Ailani Deborah Friedman

Brad Klein

Dr. Young asked whether politically sensitive should be considered. There are a lot of conflicts with authors. Will it make the group look bad to have so many conflicts? Dr. Winner would like to keep it “squeaky clean” to avoid any ethical issues. There needs to be a balance. Dr. Friedman recommended running Dr. Winner’s point by the Ethics Committee.

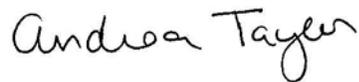
The resolution that the section agreed to was as follows:

Conflicts will be made clear ahead of time. The minutes of this meeting will be important in establishing this concern even prior to the project starting.

There was agreement that members of this group must include MDs that have no conflict with pharma and that they would have final review on the work produced.

The members demonstrated their various injection techniques and shared the dosages and sizes of needles they use for their injections. Agents used include Lidocaine and bupivacaine. Drs Young, Grosberg and Blumenfeld discussed injection techniques. There was variability in technique within the section and consensus is needed to establish any future research protocols. Part of this depends on knowledge of the anatomy of the nerves. Dr. Reed’s poster from this annual meeting on this topic should be included in the protocol.

Respectfully submitted by,



Andrea Taylor
Program Coordinator, AHS

