

Regional Anesthesia Plan for COVID-19 Patients

Patients Included as Presumptive or Confirmed COVID-19

- Active COVID-19 Infection
- Suspected COVID-19 Person Under Investigation (Rule-Out COVID-19)
- Potential COVID-19 Risk- Patient Symptomatic
- Unable to assess symptoms and no COVID-19 results available

Clinical and Practice Management

1. **Consideration for regional + MAC techniques** for COVID and PUI patients should be maximized. This will decrease need for airway manipulation for these patients.
2. Regional anesthesia blocks will be performed by the Acute Pain Service (APS) team in the operating room in appropriate PPE. Patient should continue with mask on while the block is being placed.
3. Spinals and lumbar epidurals will be performed by anesthesia team assigned to the operating room
4. APS team will be minimized to no more than **2** in the operating room. The APS nurse will not be present in the operating room.
5. Ultrasound machine will be covered in plastic prior to entry into the operating room. C-arm drape may be best choice to use to protect the ultrasound.
6. Long ultrasound probe covers should be used on the probes.
7. APS team will designate an ultrasound machine for COVID/PUI OR use. The same ultrasound used for regional blocks can be used for line placement if needed for that patient.
8. All supplies will be taken with the regional providers into the operating room to minimize door opening and outside exposure.
9. Ultrasound machine, probe, cart and positioner will be cleaned with Oxivir wipes.
10. Ultrasound machine can be left in the room after block/line placement to have UVC cleaning in OR.
11. Recommend change of scrubs after regional blocks (shower optional).

Additional Resource

Practice Recommendations on Neuraxial Anesthesia and Peripheral Nerve Blocks during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Joint Statement by the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (ASRA) and European Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Therapy (ESRA)
<https://www.asra.com/page/2905/practice-recommendations-on-neuraxial-anesthesia-and-peripheral-nerve-blocks-dur>

Definitions

MAC: Monitored Anesthesia Care

PUI: Person Under Investigation

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment