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# Improving the documentation of regional anaesthesia catheter procedures at St George's Hospital, London

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## Article Information

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## Keywords:

Regional anaesthesia

## Background and aims:

Regional anaesthetic techniques provide effective analgesia post-operatively and in trauma patients such as those with multiple rib fractures. Documentation of the regional anaesthesia (RA) procedures is an issue due to the recent transition from paper to iCLIP computerised system to document electronically. Documentation of pain scores in patients before and after the block on the same day is also an issue.

It is useful to create an 'Anaesthetic catheter procedure template' suited for iCLIP to improve documentation. This template will include pre and post block pain scores which can be documented adequately.

## Methods:

This was a retrospective review of the available data from hospital paper notes and iCLIP from 13/05/19 to 24/05/19. A total of 21 patients were included in this study who needed a catheter for different reasons. The following were analysed: 1) documentation of catheter procedure and where it was documented, 2) documentation of pain scores pre and post catheter.

## Results:

Differences were found in the location of documentation varying from electronic to paper as well as variability in paper documentation. There was also considerable variation in how the electronic document was titled. A total of 12 out of 21 procedures were documented under documentation section within iCLIP. 11 out of 21 procedures were documented in paper.

About 76% of the patients did not have pain scores documented prior to the nerve block. A total of 14 patients had their pain scores documented on day 0 post block.

## Conclusion:

Documentation of RA procedures in St George's Hospital can be improved by introducing a template ensuring less inconsistency. This enables to document the procedure as well as pain scores before and after to measure effectiveness of the nerve block received by the patients. An audit will be conducted six months after the template is in place.

Conflict of Interests/Comments: Nothing to declare.