

Lay summary

Arteriovenous fistulas are the best way to provide vascular access for dialysis in those patients who can have one. Unfortunately, the blood vessels in the arm are very small and not all fistulas work properly. Previous research suggested that regional anesthetic “blocks” cause the blood vessels to dilate, leading some people to believe that they could improve fistula outcomes. Our study has shown that fistula outcomes one-year following surgery are similar in patients who have had fistulas made under “block” compared to local anesthetic and that both techniques are safe for fistula formation.