

# Study of monitoring blood concentration of local anaesthetic after a nerve block in elderly patients with hip fracture

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<b>Registration date</b> 21/12/2016	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 11/10/2019	<b>Condition category</b> Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

A commonly used technique to help provide pain relief is performing a nerve block. This technique involves a local anaesthetic (numbing) fluid being injected into the area that is painful in order to relieve pain by blocking pain signals sent by nerves. Elderly patients with hip fractures admitted to East Surrey Hospital (ESH) routinely receive a type of nerve block called a Fascia Iliaca Compartment Block (FICB). The nerve block is performed shortly after admission and involves injecting a local anaesthetic called levobupivacaine into an area at the top of the thigh to provide pain relief. Over time local anaesthetic is absorbed from the site of injection into the blood. Currently there is very little research describing how long it takes for the local anaesthetic to reach the best concentration levels in the plasma (fluid part of blood), and even fewer studies focusing on an elderly population. The aim of this study is to identify a technique for monitoring plasma local anaesthetic concentration after FICB in elderly patients with hip fractures.

### Who can participate?

Patients over the age of 80 years with confirmed hip fractures who receive FICB as part of routine care.

### What does the study involve?

All participants receive a FICB as per the standard care protocol at East Surrey Hospital. This involves injection of 30ml of local anaesthetic (0.25% levobupivacaine) into a specific point in the groin on the same side as the hip fracture. The local anaesthetic spreads to affect multiple nerves supplying sensation to the hip and leg, thereby providing effective pain relief.

Participants have an intravenous catheter (thin tube inserted into a vein) put in place which is used to take samples of blood 10, 20, 30, 45, 60, 75, 90, 105, 120, 240 minutes after the FICB. Pain levels are assessed at the same time as blood samples are taken using a scale from 0-10 when at rest and when raising the affected hip slightly. After the 4 hour study period is complete and the final blood sample has been taken, there are no further requirements for participants. The intravenous catheter is then removed and usual care continues.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There are no direct potential benefits to participants for participating in this study however routine care will not be disadvantaged in any way. There is a minor risk of temporary and mild discomfort on insertion of the catheter, bruising and phlebitis (inflammation around the vein) from the intravenous catheter. In addition, a number of rare complications may occur. These complications only tend to occur when catheters remain in situ for several days or weeks. In this study the catheter will only be in place for 4 hours, therefore it would be extremely unlikely that a participant will encounter any of the following, but they still remain as potential risks: catheter blockage or blood clots, damage to the catheter, infection at the catheter insertion site or air embolism (blockage in the vein caused by an air bubble).

Where is the study run from?

East Surrey Hospital (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

August 2015 to November 2017

Who is funding the study?

Regional Anaesthesia - UK (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Dr Peter Odor

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## Contact information

**Type(s)**

Scientific

**Contact name**

Dr Peter Odor

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## Additional identifiers

**Protocol serial number**

32449

## Study information

**Scientific Title**

Pilot study of a plasma local anaesthetic monitoring regime after fascia iliaca block in elderly patients

**Study objectives**

The aim of this study is to identify an optimised sampling strategy for monitoring plasma local anaesthetic concentration after Fascia Iliaca Compartment Block (FICB) in elderly patients with hip fractures.

**Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**

London - Central Research Ethics Committee, 31/09/2016, ref: 16/LO/1321

**Study design**

Non-randomised; Interventional; Design type: Process of Care, Management of Care

**Primary study design**

Interventional

**Study type(s)**

Treatment

**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Specialty: Anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain management, Primary sub-specialty: Anaesthesia, Perioperative Medicine and Pain Management; UKCRC code/ Disease: Injuries and Accidents/ Injuries to the hip and thigh

**Interventions**

All patients recruited into the study are admitted to hospital with a fractured neck of femur and will receive an analgesic nerve block, called a fascia iliaca compartment block (FICB) prior to surgery. The intervention in the study is to place an intravenous catheter for sampling blood following injection of local anaesthetic during the nerve block. Blood sampling involves removal of less than 5ml of blood on each occasion and occurs at the following time intervals following FICB: 10, 20, 30, 45, 60, 75, 90, 105, 120, 240 minutes. Pain scores at rest and on 15 degree passive straight leg raise will be recorded using the Numerical Rating Scale (NRS-11) system.

Blood samples will be tested using a validated GC-MS and ELISA assays to produce data on plasma levobupivacaine and alpha-1 glycoprotein concentration.

Investigators will review patient records to obtain relevant data on patient age, weight, height, gender, renal function, albumin and concurrent medication, intravenous fluid administration and supplemental analgesia provided.

**Intervention Type**

Other

**Primary outcome(s)**

Pharmacokinetic profile of levobupivacaine is measured through blood testing on samples taken at baseline and 10, 20, 30, 45, 60, 75, 90, 105, 120, 240 minutes after the FICB.

**Key secondary outcome(s)**

1. Relationship between time and pain after fascia iliaca compartment block is measured through blood testing and visual analogue scale (VAS) on samples taken at baseline and 10, 20, 30, 45, 60, 75, 90, 105, 120, 240 minutes after the FICB
2. Range of alpha-1 glycoprotein plasma concentration in elderly patients with hip fracture is measured through blood testing on samples taken at baseline and 10, 20, 30, 45, 60, 75, 90, 105, 120, 240 minutes after the FICB
3. Patient demographics, renal function, intravenous fluid administration, supplemental analgesia requirements are measured using medical record review at baseline

**Completion date**

01/11/2017

**Eligibility****Key inclusion criteria**

1. Informed consent: signed written informed consent before inclusion in the study
2. Radiologically-confirmed fractured neck of femur
3. Age 80 years and over
4. Scheduled to receive fascia iliaca compartment block (to be done by anaesthetic team, as per standard local care protocol)

**Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Senior

**Sex**

All

**Total final enrolment**

12

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. Patient refusal or incapacity
2. Patient on anticoagulation medication
3. INR > 3.0
4. Platelets < 50
5. Allergy or contraindication to local anaesthetics
6. Local infection to site of FICB injection or blood sampling

7. Creatinine >300 or receiving renal replacement therapy or dialysis
8. Patients requiring Level 2 or 3 care
9. Estimated weight < 40kg or > 120kg

**Date of first enrolment**

14/11/2016

**Date of final enrolment**

15/05/2017

## **Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

**Study participating centre****East Surrey Hospital**

Canada Avenue

Redhill

United Kingdom

RH1 5RH

## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**

Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/0480vrj36>

## **Funder(s)**

**Funder type**

Research organisation

**Funder Name**

Regional Anaesthesia - UK (RA-UK)

# Results and Publications

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are/will be available upon request from the chief investigator.

## IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results	01/06/2019	03/05/2019	Yes	No
<a href="#">HRA research summary</a>	Participant information sheet		28/06/2023	No	No
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>		11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes