

# Comparison of Stimulating versus Non-stimulating catheter technique for Continuous Interscalene Brachial Plexus block by Posterior approach for shoulder surgery

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28/09/2007	No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
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28/09/2007	Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b>	<b>Condition category</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
14/08/2015	Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

Not provided at time of registration

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Scientific

### Contact name

Dr Ganesh Gopalakrishnan

### Contact details

42 Blackburn Avenue  
Brough  
United Kingdom  
HU15 1BD  
+44 07766462429  
drganesh\_2000@yahoo.com

## Additional identifiers

### Protocol serial number

N0084186835

## Study information

### Scientific Title

# Comparison of Stimulating versus Non-stimulating catheter technique for Continuous Interscalene Brachial Plexus block by Posterior approach for shoulder surgery

## Study objectives

Limb surgeries can cause considerable pain after the operation. One of the most effective methods of relieving this pain is to use a procedure called Nerve Plexus Block, which numbs the nerves carrying pain sensation from the operation site. To provide pain relief continuously for next few days, catheters (small plastic tube) are inserted close to the nerves whilst doing the block and left in place, so that local anaesthetic can be delivered through it continuously. In order to identify nerves we use nerve stimulators. When needle is accurately located, we put in the catheter through the needle. There are two types of catheters:

1. Continuous stimulating catheter where it has the advantage of having nerve stimulating facilities which helps to make sure catheter is still in the right place
2. Continuous non-stimulating catheter which is exactly the same as above without nerve stimulating facility.

The purpose of this study is to compare the two types of catheters when used for nerve plexus block for shoulder surgeries with respect to ease of catheter placement, onset of block and efficacy of pain relief.

## Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

## Ethics approval(s)

Not provided at time of registration

## Study design

Randomised controlled trial

## Primary study design

Interventional

## Study type(s)

Treatment

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

Surgery: Shoulder

## Interventions

Introduction:

Continuous Interscalene nerve plexus block is a pain relief technique offered to all patients coming for shoulder surgeries as a routine. It involves identifying and numbing the nerves conveying pain sensation from shoulder. This is provided continuously by placing a catheter.

The purpose of this study is to:

Compare Stimulating and Non-Stimulating catheter technique for continuous ISB (interscalene nerve block) posterior approach for shoulder surgeries in terms of their catheter placement time, efficacy, onset of block, post op pain score, primary (during the operation) and secondary (after the operation) pain relief failure rate, patient satisfaction and catheter compliance.

Those enrolled in the study would be patients coming for elective shoulder surgeries in the orthopaedic list at Castle Hill hospital. Patients would be admitted the day before surgery, pre-assessed, given information regarding this study and screened whether they full fill the criteria. If they are happy to participate in the study, they would be consented.

#### Methodology:

This study would be prospective, randomised and single blinded. Randomisation would be computer generated. Once patients satisfy criteria informed consent would be obtained during pre-assessment, the day before the operation. Randomisation would be to one of the two groups:

1. Group A = Non-stimulating catheter for continuous ISB
2. Group B = Stimulating Catheter for Continuous ISB

The patient would come with a sealed envelope to the anaesthetic room and the procedure would be depending on the technique mentioned in the envelope.

#### Outcome measures:

Catheter placement time (from the time needle to the skin to application of sticky plaster), and ease of placement would be noted.

Sensory and Motor block would be assessed at 5, 10, 15, 20, 30 minutes and time zero would be designated at the end of local anaesthetic injection. Before surgery, a separate investigator would assess the block.

#### Post-operative:

Assessment of pain scores at rest will be done using Verbal Rating Score graded from 0 (no pain) to 4 (worst imaginable pain) for as long as catheter is required post op (would be done by different person blinded to the technique).

Patient satisfaction score with respect to catheter placement would be graded as excellent, good, poor or unsatisfactory.

Care for patients in both groups will be identical.

#### Intervention Type

Procedure/Surgery

#### Phase

Not Specified

#### Primary outcome(s)

1. Catheter placement time (time from insertion of needle to applying sticky plaster)
2. Onset of sensory and motor blockade (time from LA injection to Block of all dermatomes)
3. Efficacy of analgesia (intra op analgesic needed, Post op VAS scores and post op LA required and Opiates needed)

#### Key secondary outcome(s))

Not provided at time of registration

#### Completion date

31/07/2008

## Eligibility

#### Key inclusion criteria

1. Patients 18 years & over for elective shoulder surgery
2. ASA 1 and 2 patients.

**Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Adult

**Lower age limit**

18 years

**Sex**

Not Specified

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. ASA 3 & 4 patients
2. Patients on anticoagulants
3. Allergic to local anaesthetic
5. Known neurological damage to the concerned limb

**Date of first enrolment**

28/09/2006

**Date of final enrolment**

31/07/2008

## Locations

**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

**Study participating centre**

42 Blackburn Avenue

Brough

United Kingdom

HU15 1BD

## Sponsor information

## Organisation

Record Provided by the NHSTCT Register - 2007 Update - Department of Health

## Funder(s)

### Funder type

Government

### Funder Name

The North and South Bank Research and Development Consortium (UK)

### Funder Name

Hull & East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (Endowment Fund) (UK)

## Results and Publications

### Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

#### IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

### Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes