



# Ropivacaine Pharmacokinetics after Regional Anesthesia in Total Knee Arthroplasty Patients

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# Analgesia approaches in Total Knee Arthroplasty or Anaesthetists vs Surgeons

	<b>Femoral nerve block</b>	<b>Local infiltration analgesia</b>
Early ambulation	<b>X</b>	✓
Pain control	✓	✓
Induction time	<b>X</b>	✓
Ease	<b>X</b>	✓
Material costs	<b>X</b>	✓
Risk of LAST	?	?
Dose	Weight based	Uniform

# Local anaesthetic systemic toxicity

## Rare?



1.8 per 1000 in peripheral nerve blocks



0.7 per 1000 in local infiltration analgesia

Mörwald EE, Zubizarreta N, Cozowicz C, Poeran J, Memtsoudis SG. Incidence of Local Anesthetic Systemic Toxicity in Orthopedic Patients Receiving Peripheral Nerve Blocks. *Reg Anesth Pain Med*. 2017 Jul/Aug;42(4):442-445.

Mitchell K, Cai E, Miller B, *et al* Local anesthetic systemic toxicity from local infiltration anesthesia in total joint arthroplasty: a single center retrospective study *Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine* Published Online First: 24 August 2023

# How dangerous is the site of injection?

## Classic

Intravenous

Intercostal

Epidural/ caudal

Peripheral nerve blocks

Subcutaneous/infiltration

# How dangerous is the site of injection?

## Classic

Intravenous

Intercostal

Epidural/ caudal

Peripheral nerve blocks

Subcutaneous/infiltration

## Modern

Penile

Local tissue infiltration 17%

Epidural/caudal

Peripheral nerve blocks 8.5%

TAP block

# Prevention of Local Anesthetic Toxicity

Use	Calculate	Monitor
a less toxic local anesthetic	safe doses	for toxicity

ROPIVACAINE

WEIGHT BASED  
CALCULATIONS

MONITOR FOR  
PRODROMAL SYMPTOMS

# Prevention of Local Anesthetic Toxicity

Use	Calculate	Monitor
a less toxic local anesthetic	safe doses	for toxicity

ROPIVACAINE

ACCOUNTS FOR 21%  
OF LAST

WEIGHT BASED  
CALCULATIONS

NO RELATION BETWEEN  
WEIGHT AND PLASMA  
CONCENTRATIONS

MONITOR FOR  
PRODROMAL SYMPTOMS

25% HAVE ONLY CVS  
TOXICITY

	Conc.		Volume	Dose
	mg/mL	(%)	mL	mg
<b>SURGICAL ANESTHESIA</b>				
<b>Lumbar Epidural</b>	5	(0.5%)	15 to 30	75 to 150
<b>Administration</b>				113 to 188
Surgery				150 to 200
<b>Lumbar Epidural</b>				100 to 150
<b>Administration</b>	7.5	(0.75%)	15 to 20	113 to 150
Cesarean Section				
<b>Thoracic Epidural</b>	5	(0.5%)	5 to 15	25 to 75
<b>Administration</b>	7.5	(0.75%)	5 to 15	38 to 113
Surgery				
<b>Major Nerve Block<sup>†</sup></b>	5	(0.5%)	35 to 50	175 to 250
(e.g., brachial plexus block)	7.5	(0.75%)	10 to 40	75 to 300
<b>Field Block</b>	5	(0.5%)	1 to 40	5 to 200
(e.g., minor nerve blocks and infiltration)				

**300 mg or 3 mg/kg**

175 to 250  
75 to 300  
5 to 200



# Safety Reports on High-Dose Ropivacaine






**300 mg**

## **A randomized study comparing plasma concentration of ropivacaine after local infiltration analgesia and femoral block in primary total knee arthroplasty**

Fatin Affas, Carl-Olav Stiller , Eva-Britt Nygård, Niclas Stephanson, Per Wretenberg and Christina Olofsson

**800 mg**

Population pharmacokinetics of ropivacaine used for local infiltration anaesthesia during primary total unilateral and simultaneous bilateral knee arthroplasty

[Kirill Gromov](#)   • [Stanislas Grassin-Delyle](#)  • [Nicolai B. Foss](#) • ... [Anders Troelsen](#) • [Saik Urien](#)  • [Henrik Husted](#)  • [Show all authors](#) • [Show footnotes](#)

**400 mg**

## **Pharmacokinetics of 400 mg ropivacaine after periarticular local infiltration analgesia for total knee arthroplasty**

M. G. E. Fenten<sup>1,2</sup>, S. M. K. Bakker<sup>1</sup>, D. J. Touw<sup>3</sup>, B. J. F. van den Bemt<sup>4,5,6</sup>, G. J. Scheffer<sup>2</sup>, P. J. C. Heesterbeek<sup>7</sup> and R. Stienstra<sup>1</sup>

## Systemic Ropivacaine Concentrations Following Local Infiltration Analgesia and Femoral Nerve Block in Older Patients Undergoing Total Knee Arthroplasty

Kazune S, Nurka I, Zolmanis M, Paulausks A, Bandere D

[Local and Regional Anesthesia 2023](#), 16:143-151

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a pragmatic observational pharmacokinetic trial in ASA II-III patients



Using 225 mg bolus dose of ropivacaine for three blocks: femoral nerve block, local infiltration analgesia with and without adrenaline



to characterize total blood levels of ropivacaine with venous draws and construct a pharmacokinetic model

# Questions



Is the fixed 225 mg dose safe ( $C_{\max}$ )?



Best block ( $C_{\max}$ , exposure)?



How long do you need to monitor the patient ( $T_{\max}$ )?



What factors influence plasma ropivacaine levels (type of block, weight, age)?



Surgery performed under spinal anesthesia (15 mg plain bupivacaine, 3 mL, 5 mg/mL)



Midazolam administered for sedation if requested



Standard procedure with cemented posterior stabilized prosthesis and medial parapatellar approach



Tourniquet used; no wound drains left post-operation

For Femoral  
Nerve Block  
Group:

**30 mL of 7.5 mg /mL ropivacaine (225 mg total dose)**

End of injection marked as time zero (T0)



For Local  
Infiltration  
Analgesia  
Groups:

Sequential injections: 20 mL subcutaneously, 50 mL into posterior capsule, 80 mL around collateral ligaments

**Group A received 225 mg ropivacaine (0.15%; 150 mL) with adrenaline 5 µg/ mL**

**Group B received 225 mg ropivacaine (0.15%; 150 mL)**

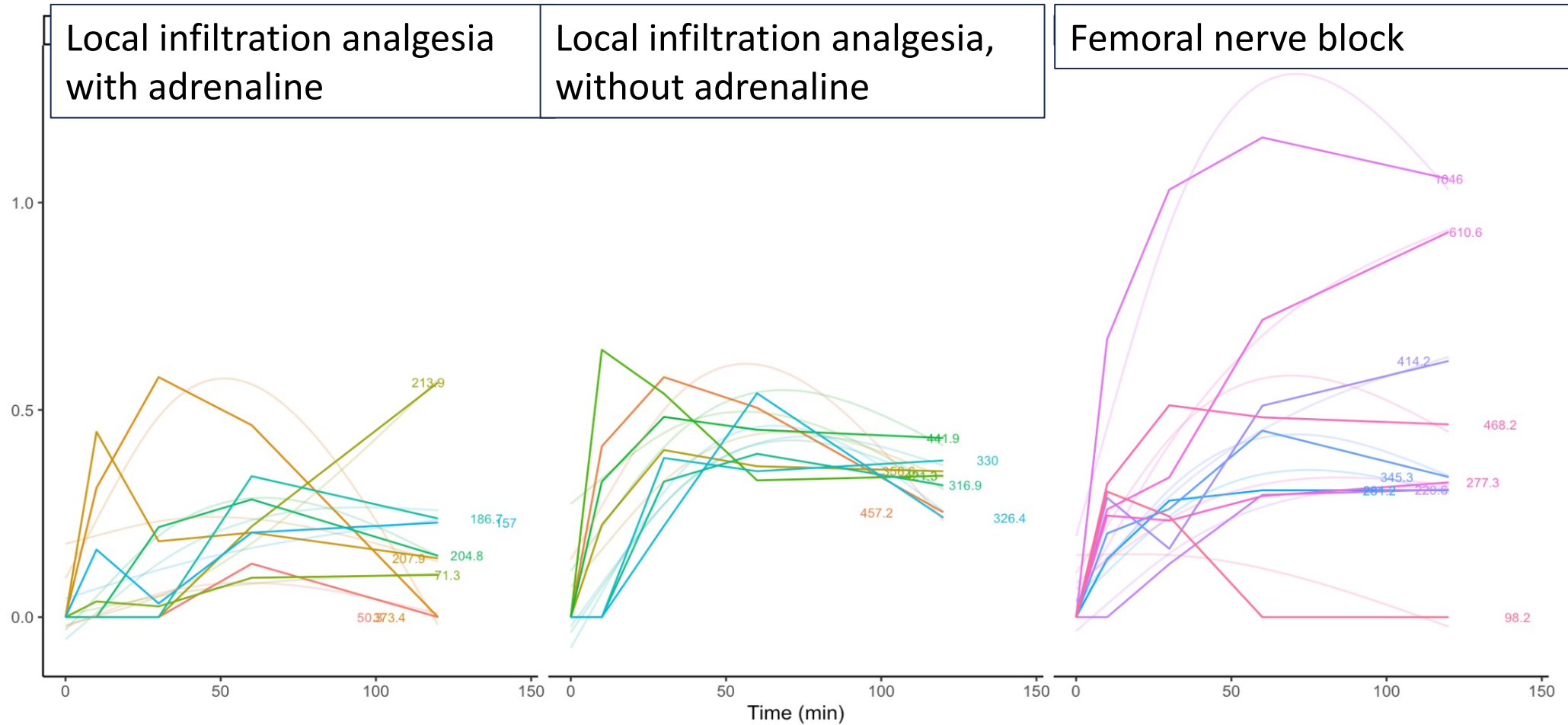
Tourniquet deflation marked as time zero (T0)

# Patient demographics

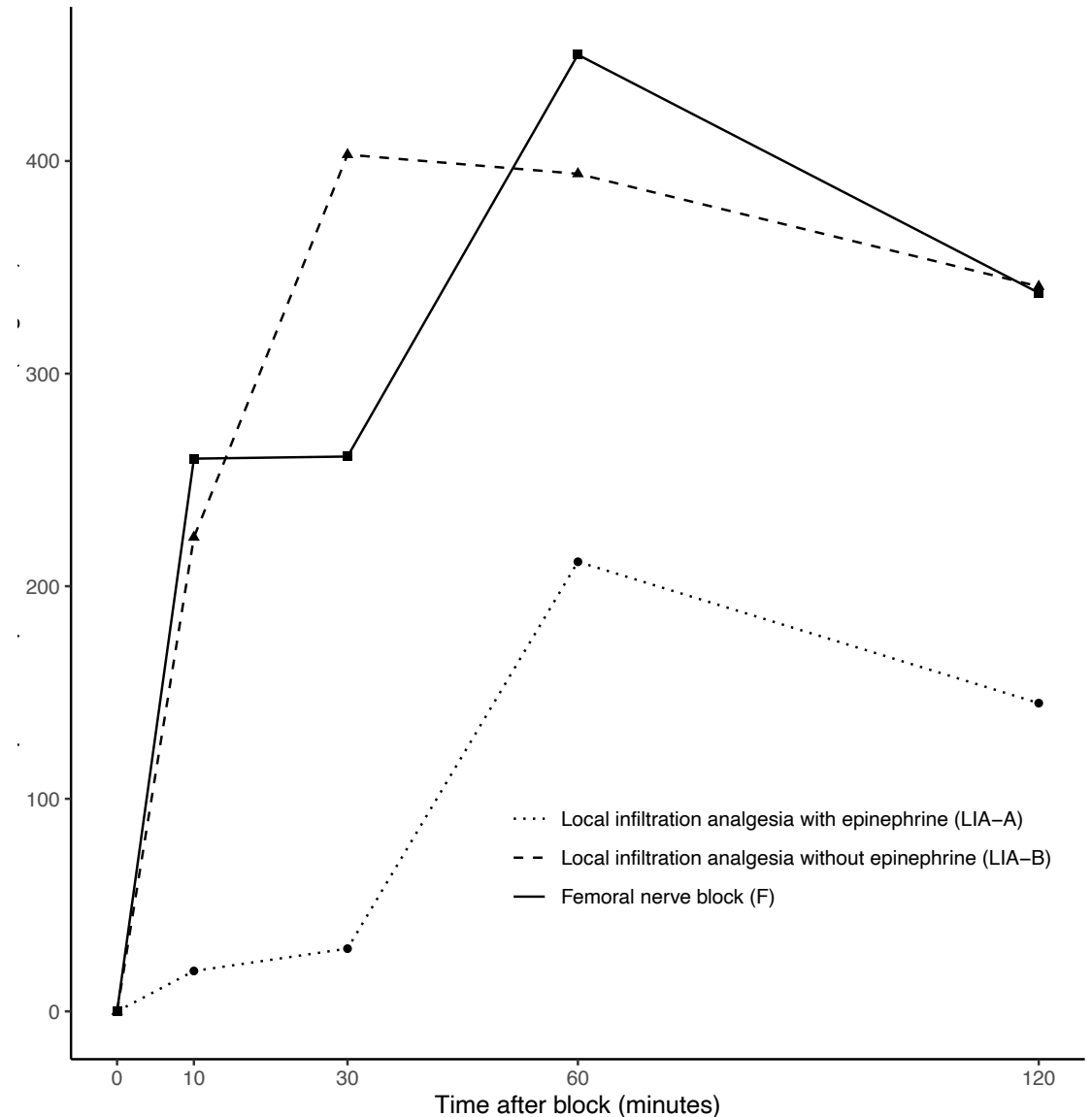
	<b>Infiltration Analgesia with Epinephrine (N = 8)</b>	<b>Infiltration Analgesia Without Epinephrine (N = 7)</b>	<b>Femoral Nerve Block (N = 9)</b>	<b>Total (N = 24)</b>	<b>p value</b>
<b>Age (years)</b>	76 (7.1)	73.4 (4.5)	76.4 (5.5)	75.4 (5.7)	0.56
<b>Female (n (%))</b>	6 (75.0%)	7 (100.0%)	8 (88.9%)	21 (87.5%)	0.34
<b>Weight (kg)</b>	82.9 (17.5)	88.6 (14.4)	79.2 (14.9)	83.2 (15.5)	0.51
<b>Height (m)</b>	1.7 (0.1)	1.6 (0.1)	1.6 (1.6, 1.7)	1.6 (0.1)	0.14
<b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	30.1 (6.6)	35.1 (4.9)	30.3 (4.4)	31.6 (5.6)	0.16

# Individual patient plasma concentrations

Threshold plasma ropivacaine concentration for toxicity is 2.2 mcg/mL



There was a significant difference in plasma ropivacaine concentrations between groups at 30, 60 and 120 minutes with group LIA-A having significantly lower concentrations than either group LIA-B ( $p = 0.01$ ) or group F ( $p = 0.002$ ).







The mean individual peak plasma concentrations of total ropivacaine in groups LIA-A, LIA-B and FNB were 0.334 (95% CI 0.181–0.488), 0.490 (95% CI 0.395–0.584) and 0.545 (95% CI 0.309–0.782)  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  ( $p = 0.16$ ).



The mean time to reach the maximum plasma concentration ( $t_{\text{max}}$ ) was **36** minutes (95% CI 20–52) for group LIA-B, which was significantly shorter compared to **73** minutes (95% CI 37–108) for group LIA-A and **78** minutes (95% CI 45–111) for group FNB ( $p = 0.03$ ).

# Patient characteristics

Age showed a moderate positive correlation:

- Peak plasma concentration of ropivacaine ( $R = 0.37$ ,  $p = 0.08$ )
- Time taken to reach peak concentration ( $R = 0.33$ ,  $p = 0.12$ )

No correlation with weight

# Conclusions



Is the fixed 225 mg dose safe ( $C_{max}$ )?

**YES**



How long do you need to monitor the patient ( $T_{max}$ )?

**AT LEAST 75 minutes after tourniquet release**



Best block ( $C_{max}$ , absorption within 120 minutes)?

**Local infiltration analgesia with adrenaline**



What factors influence plasma ropivacaine levels (type of block, weight, age)?

**Patients over 75 need dose reduction**