

## Pecs block for anesthesia in breast surgery of the elderly

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To the Editor:

Pecs block is usually used as perioperative analgesia for breast surgery [1, 2]. Local anesthetic is injected between the pectoralis major (PMm) and minor (Pmm) muscles for a Pecs I block, and between the serratus anterior muscle and Pmm for a Pecs II block. We have used the Pecs block as an anesthesia technique in breast surgery of the elderly.

Case 1 was a 91-year-old female (140 cm, 32 kg) who presented for simple mastectomy for a large breast tumor. The Pecs II block was achieved by use of 35 mL 0.2 % ropivacaine. Surgery was completed uneventfully with additional local anesthetic infiltration. Case 2 was a 94-year-old female (138 cm, 34 kg) who presented for lumpectomy of a breast tumor located close to the PMm. The Pecs I and II blocks were achieved with a total of 45 mL 0.2 % ropivacaine. Surgery was completed uneventfully.

For the Pecs block, to achieve wider coverage of the skin dermatome while avoiding the risk of local anesthetic toxicity, we used ropivacaine in a greater volume and at a lower concentration than the original regimen [2]. A Pecs block, with a sufficient volume of local anesthetic, may be a good option as anesthesia for breast surgery of the elderly.

**Conflict of interest** None.

### References

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