

SURVEY OF POST OPERATIVE REGIONAL ANAESTHESIA TECHNIQUES FOR MAJOR ABDOMINAL SURGERY (SPRATS)

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Background and Aims

Epidural analgesia is considered to be the gold standard analgesic technique for major abdominal or pelvic surgery. However regional anaesthetic techniques supplemented with parental analgesics are becoming more popular. SPRATS was designed to assess the current practice throughout the South West Peninsula.

Methods

SPRATS is a project of the SWARM collective, a trainee led, consultant mentored research network operating at all 6 NHS Trusts in the Peninsula Deanery . The project was registered as service evaluation/audit at each site. During the two-week study period we collected anonymised prospective data on all elective & emergency abdominal and pelvic operations in each hospital. Local detailed data on type of surgery and analgesic technique was transcribed to a central database for analysis.

Results

SPRATS data collection is ongoing. Thus far there are 64 completed datasets, with 200 predicted at completion. Of these patients, 35 (54%) were male with a mean age of 65yrs. Scheduled surgery accounted for 43 (67%) of the total and general surgery accounted for 47 (73%) of the cases, 25 (39%) via a midline laparotomy. Data will be presented by type of surgical incision and by site.

	Spinal	Epidural	Rectus Sheath	TAP	Wound infiltration
Midline Laparotomy	3 (12%)	11 (44%)	9 (36%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)
Total cases	8 (12.5%)	19 (30%)	17 (26.5%)	7 (11%)	13 (20%)

Conclusions

Preliminary findings suggest that thoracic epidural analgesia remains the most commonly used technique for midline laparotomy. Further findings will be available following completion of data collection.

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