

Epidural Contraindications

Anesthetic Pearls: Contraindications of Epidural Anesthesia

1. Patient Refusal
2. Surgeon Refusal
3. Coagulation Disturbance:
 - A. Clotting factors
 - B. Platelet dysfunction or decreased total platelet count (absolute < 75; gray zone 75 - 100)
 - C. von Willebrand's disease
 - D. Heparin (discontinue for 12 hours)
 - E. Coumadin (INR < 1.3)
 - F. Oral anticoagulation meds (Plavix stopped for 7-10 days)
4. Infection
 - A. Skin infection or soft tissue infection at the site of placement
 - B. Sepsis
5. Prior Spine Surgery (multi-level fusion, Harrington Rods)
6. Increased Intracranial Pressure Secondary To A Mass Lesion
7. Uncorrected Maternal Hypovolemia (Hemorrhage)
8. Inadequate Training or Experience In The Technique

American Society of Regional Anesthesia Practice Advisory - 2010:
 Horlocker TT, Wedel DJ, et. at. "Regional Anesthesia in the Patient Receiving Antithrombotic or Thrombolytic Therapy"

