

# Content... *Interfascial Plane Block*

- Background
- **What options have we and what works?**
- **Evidence of benefits?**

*Transversus Abdominis Plane block (TAP)*

*PECS block*

*Quadratus Lumborum block (QL)*

*Erector Spinae Plane block (ESP)*

*.... what's current*

- Issues with IFP blocks
- Conclusion

# What we know FOR PECS .... 2017

(Acta Anaesth. Belg., 2017, 68, 49-62)

A Qualitative Systematic Review of the Pectoral Nerves Block Type I and II

B. VERSYCK (\*), P. VAN HOUWE (\*\*), G. J. VAN GEFFEN, M. VAN DE VELDE (\*) and R. SLAPPENDEL (\*\*\*)

## Conclusion

‘... These studies do not allow a viable and meaningful meta-analysis due to the *limited number of trials*, *too diverse endpoints* and/or endpoints reported on different time points or intervals...

No RCT for PIFB, SIFB,  
TTP or SPB were  
identified

Woodworth et al.... RAPM Oct  
2017

relevant studies. Results from our systematic literature search show encouraging and consistent evidence that the Pecs blocks produce effective analgesia, and reduce perioperative opioid consumption as compared to control groups without regional anesthesia, as well as other regional anesthesia techniques. Furthermore, the Pecs blocks provide favorable analgesic results in a wide range of indications including regional anesthesia and pain medicine technique. The absence of block-related complications reported in the literature may suggest that the Pecs blocks are easy to apply and safe for patients.

Review Article

**Analgesic efficacy of the Pecs II block: a systematic review and meta-analysis**

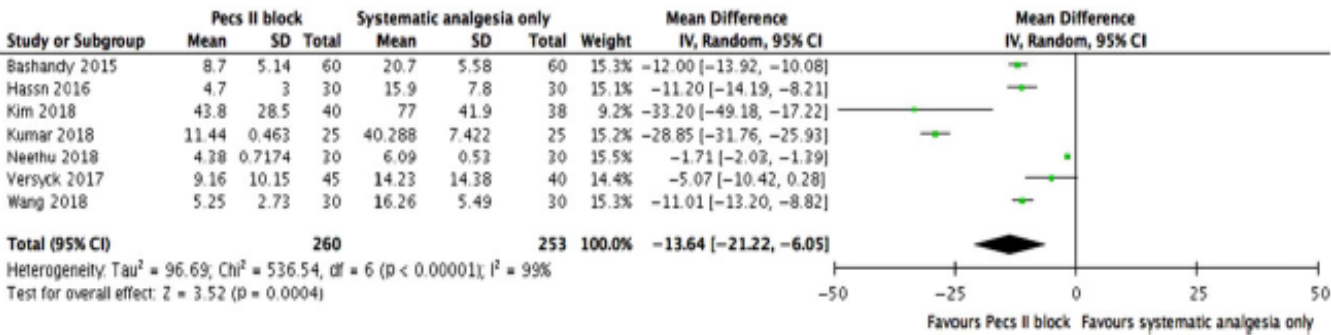
**B. Versyck,<sup>1</sup> G.-J. van Geffen<sup>2</sup> and K.-J. Chin<sup>3</sup>**

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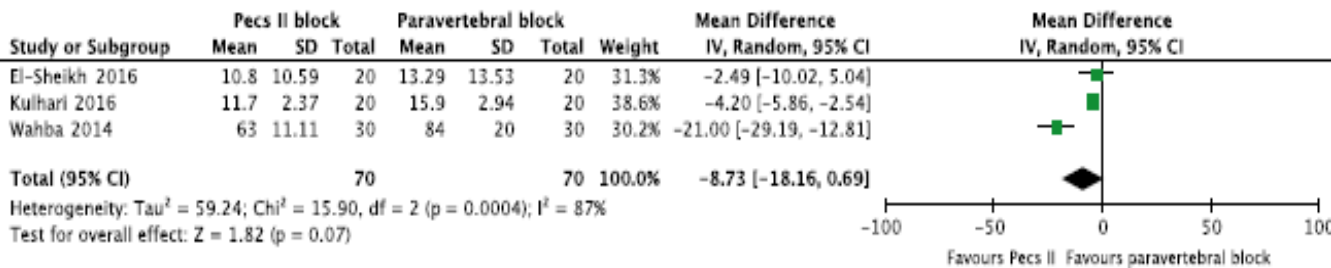
**What we know** FOR PECS .... 2019

**13 RCTs** (n= 815)  
**8 RCTs** (n= 572) PECS II v systemic analgesia  
**5 RCTs** (n= 243) PECS II v TPVB  
**Intermediate to high quality ( 9 of 13)**

**(a) – Pecs II block versus systematic analgesia alone**



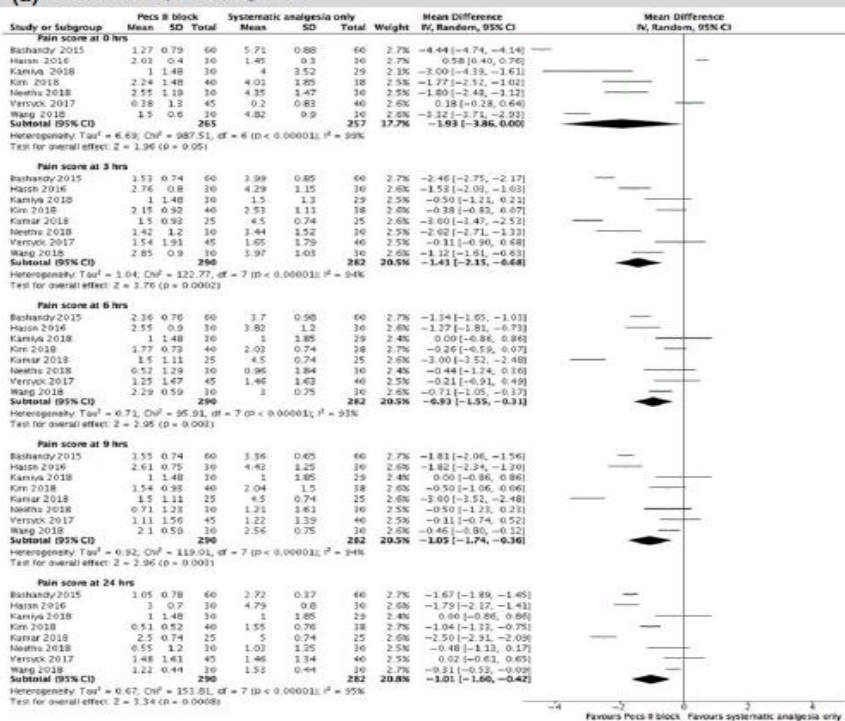
**(b) Pecs II block versus paravertebral block**



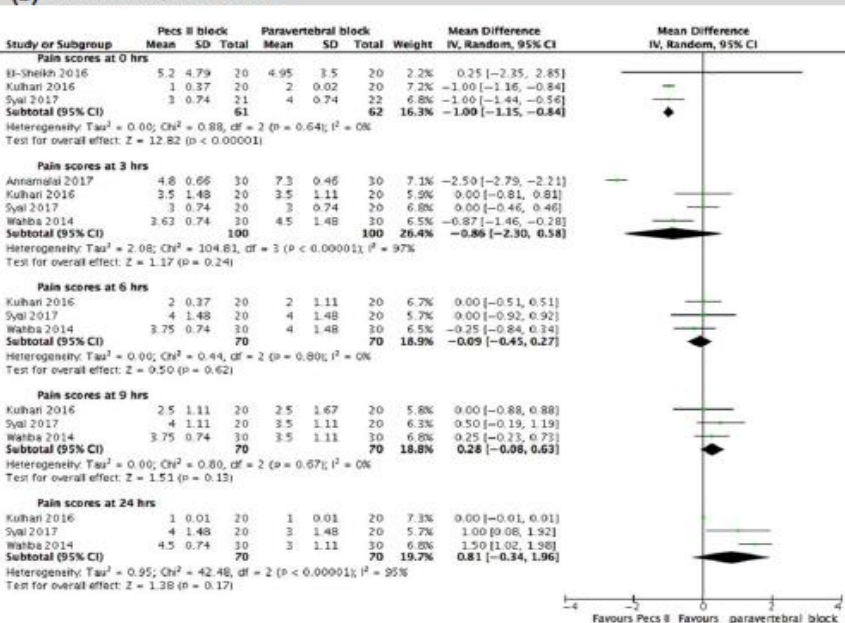
PECS II **SS reduction** in OME  
v control (7 RCTs; n= 513)  
**-13.64 mg** (-21.22 to -6.05;  
 $p < 0.01$ )

**No SS overall difference v**  
**PVB ( 3 RCTs; n= 140)**  
**-8.73 mg** (-18.16 to 0.69;  $p$   
 $= 0.07$ )

(a) Pecs II block versus systemic analgesia alone



(b) Pecs II block versus paravertebral block



PECS II v systemic (8 RCTs; n= 572)

Pain scores  
**SS lower**  
**at ALL time points**  
average  
-1.23 ( -1.93 to 0.93)

PECS v PVB (5 RCTs; n=243)

Significantly lower  
**IMMEDIATELY**  
-1.00 ( -1.15 to -0.84)  $p < 0.01$

**NO DIFFERENCE AT LATER TIME POINTS**



### **Intraoperative Fentanyl consumption**

PECS v systemic analgesia (7 RCTs; n=522)

**SIMILAR** between both groups  
-34.79 micg (-128.08 to -58.51);  $p = 0.46$

PECS v PVB (2 RCTs; n= 100)

**PECS consumed less** opioids intra-op  
-21.82 micg (-31.43 to -12.22);  $p < 0.01$

### **Time to first request**

PECS v Systemic analgesia (4 RCTs; n= 290)

**PECS SS** prolongation in TFA  
301 (104-495)  $p < 0.01$

PECS v PVB (4 RCTs;; n= 183)

**No SS** difference  
-7 ( -126 to 112)  $p= 0.91$

### **PONV**

PECS v both groups ( 7 RCTs; n= 477)

**NO SS**

**NO COMPLICATIONS (8 RCTs; n=288)**

### **Conclusion PECS II**

significantly **improves quality of analgesia and reduces opioid consumption** compared with systemic analgesia alone.

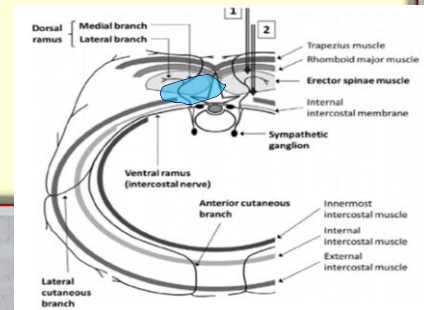
**simpler and safer alternative** to PVB **do not come at the expense of reduced analgesic efficacy.**

**no significant difference** in pain scores, time to first analgesic request or 24-h opioid consumption between **PECS II and PVB**

# The Erector Spinae Plane Block *A Novel Analgesic Technique in Thoracic Neuropathic Pain*

Mauricio Forero, MD, FIPP,\* Sanjib D. Adhikary, MD,† Hector Lopez, MD,‡  
Calvin Tsui, BMSc,§ and Ki Jinn Chin, MBBS (Hons), MMed, FRCPC||

- **Forero** *RAPM* 2016
- **Inter-fascial plane block** (at T5)
- **Provide extensive multi-dermatomal sensory block** (clinical T2-T9; cadaveric C7-T8)
- **Proposed site of action most likely at dorsal and ventral rami of thoracic spinal nerves**



# Mechanism of action...

- block of ventral and dorsal rami via paravertebral route (through muscular and connective tissue gaps via costotransverse foramen)
- **‘Superficial’ approach to Paravertebral space**
- ? Posterior equivalent to rectus sheath

## CHRONIC AND INTERVENTIONAL PAIN

### BRIEF TECHNICAL REPORT

#### The Erector Spinae Plane Block

*A Novel Analgesic Technique in Thoracic Neuropathic Pain*

Mauricio Forero, MD, FIPP,\* Sanjib D. Adhikary, MD,† Hector Lopez, MD,‡  
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Forero et al postulated presence of ventral spread through costotransverse foramen based on clinical and recon CT cadaver spread findings

Presence of spread via anatomical gaps through perforations between intertransverse connective tissues to intervertebral foramina and epidural spaces

Lateral extensions through intercostal spaces

## REGIONAL ANESTHESIA AND ACUTE PAIN

### BRIEF TECHNICAL REPORT

#### Erector Spinae Plane Block Versus Retrolaminar Block *A Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Anatomical Study*

Sanjib Das Adhikary, MD,\* Stephanie Bernard, MD,† Hector Lopez, MD,‡ and Ki Jinn Chin, FRCPC§

## REGIONAL ANESTHESIA AND ACUTE PAIN

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

#### A Cadaveric Study Investigating the Mechanism of Action of Erector Spinae Blockade

Jason Ivanusic, PhD,\* Yasutaka Konishi, MD,†‡ and Michael J. Barrington, PhD, MBBS, FANZCA†§

### NO SPREAD TO VENTRAL RAMI...

Extensive cephalo-caudal spread  
Lateral extension to intercostal spaces to angle of ribs

# Evidence so far...

- 78 reports and small series, 5 cadaveric, 2 RCTs *Tsui 2018*
- Thoraco-abdominal procedures  
(Open and laparoscopic upper and lower abdominal)
- Extended to lumbar and cervical levels *Elkoundi 2019, Kline 2018, Tulgar 2018, Evans 2018*
- Acute & Chronic pain  
(suggestive of somatic and visceral)

- Although mechanism is unknown, pain alleviation as reported is too profound to be overlooked

***‘Peripheral regional technique  
with central neuraxial capabilities’***

- Await further sharing of experience
- Remains an alternative technique with huge potential



Unresolved issues surrounding  
inter-fascial blocks?...  
Questions yet to be answered...

Interfascial Plane Blocks

*Back to Basics*

(Reg Anesth Pain Med 2018;43: 341-346)

Hesham Elsharkawy, MD, MBA, MSc, \* Amit Pawa, MBBS(Hons), FRCA,†‡ and Edward R. Mariano, MD, MAS§

**Priority areas- anatomy, function, access and outcome;**

Detailed micro-anatomy on properties and behaviour of fascial layers.... And of different location

Where and why LA spreads the way it does....

Consistency/reliability

Effect of spontaneous v mechanical ventilation and position....

“Big data” research ... over time....

# Conclusion *Interfascial Plane Blocks....*

Evidence suggesting...

## *Interfascial Plane blocks...*

- ***moderate to high quality level evidence*** for immediate perioperative '***efficacy***' benefits;
- apparently ***safe*** with ***low incidence of complications***
- ***TAP*** block ***appears superior*** but effects are ***clinically marginal***
- Addition of ***PECS*** improves ***immediate perioperative analgesic effects..*** as ***efficacious*** as ***PVB***

# Conclusion *Interfascial Plane Blocks....*

- **QL** appears to be **clinically superior** than TAP for abdominal procedures, through **unclear mechanisms**.
- **QL** and **ESP** have the **potential** to replace PVB or Epidural
- Further **understanding of fascial characteristics** may be key in refining our 'knowledge' and behaviour of fascial blocks