Percutaneous and endoscopic adhesiolysis
Perkütan ve endoskopik adezyolizis

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Summary
Low back and leg pain may be due to many causes including scarring in the epidural space. Scar tissue often causes irritated swollen and inflamed nerves, which can cause pain. Adhesiolysis eliminate the pain-causing effects of scar tissue by releasing or decompression of a nerve from scar tissue. Percutaneous adhesiolysis is a safe and effective procedure, while epiduroscopy is a minimally invasive technique that offers diagnostic and therapeutic advantages in cases of chronic low back pain and radiculopathy. The aim of this review is to describe the comparison of percutaneous and endoscopic procedures in the lysis of adhesions in epidural fibrosis in terms of indications, contraindications, complications, techniques, and efficacy.

Keywords: Epidural fibrosis; epiduroscopic adhesiolysis; neuroplasty; percutaneous adhesiolysis; scar tissue.

Öz

Anahtar sözcükler: Epidural fibrosis; epiduroscopic adhesiolysis; neuroplasty; percutaneous adhesiolysis; scar tissue.

Percutaneous Adhesiolysis
Perkütan adezyolizis

History

Epidural scar tissue
Epidural fibrosis (Fig. 1) results from the proliferation of fibroblasts, transformation of fibroblasts to myo-
tant fibrous material which could be penetrated with difficulty or not at all. The level of fibrosis and vascular changes can be considered as one of the factors affecting the outcome of the neuroplasty procedure.

Fluid foraminotomy
In fluid foraminotomy, the pressure effect of the fluid (Fig. 3) provides a partial passageway through into the foramina, opening venous runoff, reducing foraminal stenosis and edema.\(^ {11}\)

Diagnosis

Physical examination
- Stable vital sign
- Musculoskeletal examination
- Neurologic examination
- Straight leg raise: At less than 60 degrees (+)
- Provocative dural tug test: To perform the test, the patient should be sit up with a straight leg, bend forward flexing the lumbar spine until their back pain starts to become evident and the head and neck flexed rapidly forward. During this maneuver, the movement of the dura occur the localized low back pain\(^ {11}\) (Fig. 4)
- Elvey maneuver (helps to diagnose cervical radiculopathy)\(^ {12}\)
- Spurling maneuver (helps to diagnose cervical radiculopathy). Spurling test had low sensitivity (30%) but a high specificity (94%)\(^ {12}\)
- Cervical active/passive range of motion examination.

Radiologic examination
- Magnetic resonance imaging
- Computed tomography (CT)-CT myelography
- Epidurogram (epidural fibrosis is best diagnosed by epidurogram compared to other methods)

Indications
- Failed back or neck surgery syndrome
- Epidural fibrosis
- Cervical or lumbar radiculopathy
- Spinal stenosis
- Cervical or lumbar disc bulges
- Thoracic disk related chest wall and abdominal pain
- Metastatic carcinoma of the spine leading to compression fracture
- Multilevel degenerative arthritis
- Pain unresponsive to spinal cord stimulation
- Pain unresponsive to spinal opioid.
Contraindications

- Local infection
- Sepsis
- Coagulopathies
- Unstable spine
- Inability to lie in prone position
- Patient refusal
- Syrinx formation.

Equipment

- 25 gauge infiltration needle
- 18 gauge needle
- 15 or 16 gauge epidural needle (curved and beveled radiopaque needle)
- 24 cm epidural catheter (Suitable for 15 or 16 gauge epidural needle) (fluoropolymer-coated radiopaque epidural catheter made of stainless steel with spiral tip)
- Loss of resistance syringe
- 3 mL syringe
- Two 10 mL syringes
- Needle holder
- 3–0 nylon on cutting needle
- Scissors.

Drugs

- 1% lidocaine for local anesthesia
- 2% preservative free lidocaine
- 0.25% preservative free levobupivacaine, bupivacaine, or 0.2% ropivacaine
- 0.9% preservative free saline
- 10% preservative free hypertonic saline.
- Steroids
- 1500U hyaluronidase.

In 1967, Hitchcock[4] used hypertonic saline injection for chronic pain treatment. Animal studies show that high chloride ion concentration of hypertonic saline causes selective C fiber blockade, reduces spinal cord water content and changes the sodium concentration of cerebrospinal fluid.[13–15] Injections of hypertonic saline can be quite painful; therefore, local anesthetics are generally injected before the saline. The intrathecal injection of hypertonic saline can produce a variety of complications. Clinical complications of hypertonic saline consist of cardiac (hypertension, tachycardia, and arrhythmia), respiratory (pulmonary edema), pain in the ear, vestibular disturbances, hemiplegia and loss of sphincter control.[16]

Hyaluronic acid is a large-molecule glycosaminoglycan that binds ground substance proteins that form proteoglycans. Hyaluronidase transiently degrades hyaluronic acid, a glycosaminoglycan found extensively in the interstitial matrix and basement membrane. Its primary function is to depolymerize hyaluronic acid and to a lesser degree chondroitin-6-sulfate and chondroitin-4-sulfate.[17] Not only are these proteoglycans found between the ground substances between cells but they are also in cheloids (dense scar tissue) and epidural adhesions. Dura is consist collagen, elastin and surface fibroblast. Cause of this reason, dura is not affected by hyaluronidase.[18] Hyaluronidase is present in, venoms, toxins, bacteria, mammalian tissue, and spermatozoa.[19,20] There are two types of hyaluronidase in clinical use: Animal-derived hyaluronidase and human form produced using recombinant technology. When using hyaluronidase, clinicians should be alert about allergies. Anaphylactic-like reactions have been reported in publications.[19]

Patient preparation

- Possible benefits and risks of the procedure should be discussed with the patient and informed consent forms should be obtained. In addition, the patient should be informed in detail about the target
- Anticoagulant drugs used by the patient should be questioned. If the patient’s comorbid conditions are appropriate, these anticoagulants should be discontinued according to the guidelines[21]
- Drug allergy, problems with the previous anesthesia and interventional procedures should be questioned and noted
- Prothrombin time, partial thromboplastin time, bleeding time, white blood cell count, and platelet function tests should be reviewed
- Premedication is recommended for the patient’s comfort (1–2 mg midazolam, 25–50 µg fentanyl and 1 g ceftriaxone by intravenous catheter)
- Patient should be monitored for safety (Automated blood pressure cuff, electrocardiogram, and pulse oximeter).

Technique

Caudal approach

The patient is placed prone position with a pillow under the abdomen to correct the lumbar lordosis. The patient is asked to put his or her toes together
for easier identification of the sacral hiatus. After sterile preparation and draping from the top of the iliac crest to the bottom, the sacral cornua and the sacral hiatus identified through palpation or with fluoroscopy. The entry point is approximately 1–2 cm lateral and 2–3 cm inferior to the sacral hiatus in the contralateral gluteal region (Fig. 5).

After skin infiltration with a local anesthetic such as 1% lidocaine, 16 gauge epidural needle is passed through entry point and then the sacrococcygeal ligament (sacral cornua is used as a landmark) (Fig. 6). The needle is not advanced higher than the S3 foramen to avoid damage to the sacral nerve root and to avoid dural puncture. Placement of the needle is confirmed by a lateral fluoroscopic imaging (Fig. 6a and Fig. 7) for determine that the needle is within the caudal canal and by a anteroposterior fluoroscopic imaging for verify that needle tip placement toward the affected side. After confirm a negative aspiration for blood or cerebrospinal fluid, an epidurogram is performed using 10 mL of non-ionic, water-soluble contrast agent. Ionic contrast agent should not be preferred because it may cause serious complications in accidental subarachnoid injection. If venous runoff is detected, the needle tip is moved until the venous escape of the contrast agent stops. Contrast agent is injected slowly and observed filling defects.

A normal epidurogram will have an inverted “Christmas tree” pattern. Epidural adhesions will have a marked absence of dye, because of presumed scarring. If the needle tip is subarachnoid, the contrast agent will has centrally extends to several levels above L5. If the needle tip is subdural, contrast agent will has spread circumferentially and longitudinally. It will have form linear streaks laterally along the thecal sac: So called “tram tracks.” On lateral views, it will have form a narrow, linear streak in the dorsal sac, and with a flat dorsal margin against the dura mater.[22] Unlike intrathecal spread, contrast medium injected into the subdural space will have persist longer. In addition, injection of local anesthetics into the subarachnoid or subdural space will have result in motor block. If cerebrospinal fluid is aspirated, the procedure should be canceled. If blood is aspirated, the needle is advanced caudally in the sacral canal until no blood can be aspirated.
After the needle position has been confirmed and the distal opening is rotated (Fig. 6b, c), an epidural catheter that is bent at an angle of 15–30° from 2.5 cm of the distal tip is passed through the needle. Under continuous AP fluoroscopy, the tip of the catheter is advanced toward the ventral-lateral epidural space of the desired level (Fig. 6d). To avoid dural puncture, advancement of the catheter from the midline should be avoided. The catheter should be directed by turning it slightly clockwise or counterclockwise and avoiding pushing the tip of the catheter. Ideal location of the tip of catheter in the AP imaging is in the foramen just below the midportion of the pedicle and in the lateral imaging is in the ventral epidural space.

After final placement of the catheter (Fig. 8) and negative aspiration, 5 mL of non-ionic, water-soluble contrast agent is injected through the catheter. This additional contrast should be seen spreading into the previous filling defect. Subsequently, 1500 U of hyaluronidase in solution with 10 mL of preservative free normal saline is injected into the catheter. This injection should be administered slowly as it may disturb the patient. After observation of scar tissue opening at the nerve root, a 3 mL test dose of 10 mL of preservative free normal saline is injected into the catheter. This injection should be administered slowly as it may disturb the patient. After observation of scar tissue opening at the nerve root, a 3 mL test dose of 10 mL of preservative free normal saline is injected into the catheter. This injection should be administered slowly as it may disturb the patient. 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placement must be confirmed to be in the anterior epidural space under lateral fluoroscopy imaging and the stylet is removed from catheter. Anatomically, the catheter is in the foramen above or below the exiting nerve root (Fig. 9). After confirmation of epidural spread with 1–2 mL of contrast medium, the total treatment dose (10 mL hyaluronidase, 14 mL local anesthetic + 1 mL steroid) is divided into both catheters. While 5 mL of the local anesthetic/steroid mixture and 5 mL of hyaluronidase are administered through the transforaminal catheter, the remaining volume is administered through the caudal catheter.

If the catheter is to be fixed, it should be sutured with non-absorbable suture, applied sterile dressing, and a filter should be installed at the end of the catheter. To prevent bacterial colonization during hospitalization, 1 g of ceftriaxone is given daily and oral antibiotic therapy should be recommended for 5 days to prevent the development of epidural abscess during discharge. After the patient is taken recovery room, the hypertonic saline solution is infused at a volume of 4–5 mL per transforaminal catheter and 8–10 mL per caudal catheter over 30 min. After finish of hypertonic saline infusion, 1–2 mL of preservative free normal saline is used to clean down the catheter. The catheter is left in place for 3 days. On the 2nd and 3rd day, transforaminal catheter position is checked under fluoroscopy. On the 3rd day, the catheter is removed 10 min after the last injection.

**S1 foraminal approach**

This method can be preferred in patient with S1 radiculopathy or difficult caudal approach and S1 foraminal approach may be used to achieve lysis and fluid foraminotomy at this level.

**Cervical neuroplasty**

Before starting the procedure, the patient’s neck movements should be evaluated and if there is serious limitation in the movements, the procedure should be canceled. Passive neck movements during the procedure are helped reduce complications by reducing the pressure in the epidural space.

The procedure can be performed in the left lateral or prone position. Because of potential for dural puncture and spinal cord injury, the upper thoracic approach (T1-T2) is used. The entry point is 1–1.5 vertebral levels below and 1 cm paramedian on the contralateral side. Using fluoroscopy in the anteroposterior view, 16 gauge epidural needles are inserted toward to T1-T2 with the tip of the needle directed to midline. At the skin the needle will appear to be progressing in a 70–80 degree angle owing to the lordosis of spine at that level. When the needle depth is reached 2–3 cm, the depth is checked in the lateral view. Depth is continuously controlled by AP and lateral imaging until it approaches the posterior border of the epidural space. The posterior border of the dorsal epidural space can be visualized by identifying the junction of the base of the spinous process of the vertebra with its lamina. The needle should be in the midline when the posterior border of the epidural space is reached. Using the loss of resistance technique (we are preferred approximately 1 mL of air and 9 mL preservative free normal saline to feel the loss of resistance more clearly in our clinic), the tip of the needle is placed in the epidural area and the needle tip is rotated to cephalad. Filling defect is detected after injecting 3–5 mL of contrast agent for the epidurogram. Passive cervical twisting movements during the epidurogram reduce the epidural pressure by increasing fluid flow through the foramina. Therefore, passive cervical twisting movements are proposed to reduce the complications. The 2.5–3 cm distal of the epidural catheter is bent at an angle of about 10 degrees and passed through the needle. As the target level is reached (Fig. 10), 0.5–1 mL of contrast agent is injected to visualize the target nerve root. Subsequently, a solution of 1500 U of hyaluronidase in 5 mL of protective free normal saline is injected into the catheter. To exclude intravascular and intrathecal injection, radiographic imaging is recommended during the injection of these agents. This is followed by 1–2 mL of additional contrast and the opening of the nerve root is observed. After observation of scar tissue opening at the nerve root, a 2 mL
A test dose of 6 mL of local anesthetic/steroid solution is administered. After 5 min, if there is no evidence of intrathecal or intravascular injection, the remaining 4 mL of solution is injected.

If the catheter is to be fixed, it should be sutured with non-absorbable suture, applied sterile dressing, and a filter should be installed at the end of the catheter. To prevent bacterial colonization during hospitalization, 1 g of ceftriaxone is given daily and oral antibiotic therapy should be recommended for 5 days to prevent the development of epidural abscess during discharge. If there is no evidence of intrathecal or intravascular injection, 5 mL of hypertonic saline solution is administered for 30 min. After finish of hypertonic saline infusion, 1–2 mL of preservative free normal saline is used to clean down the catheter. The second and third infusions are performed on the next day with 6 mL of local anesthetics and 5 mL of hypertonic saline using the same technique and precautions described for first infusion. After the procedure is complete, the catheter is removed.

Complications of percutaneous adhesiolysis

As with any invasive procedure, complications are possible.[4,8,11,16,24–29]

Complications can be divided into three groups; catheter related, technique related, and drug related complications.

**Catheter related complications**
- Catheter obstruction (Contrast may obstruct the catheter due to density. The catheter should be flushed with normal saline after use)
- Catheter tearing
- Folding of the catheter
- Migration of catheter

**Technique related complications**
- Subdural injection
- Subarachnoid injection
- Dural puncture
- Epidural hematoma
- Infection
- Arachnoiditis (Intrathecal injection)
- Cauda equina syndrome
- Transient paresthesia
- Paralysis
- Bruising at injection site
- Sexual dysfunction
- Spinal cord compression from injected fluids.

**Drug related complications**
- Hypertension (hypertonic saline)
- Tachycardia (hypertonic saline)
- Tachypnea (hypertonic saline)
- Pulmonary edema (hypertonic saline)
- Hemorrhagic dysfunction (hypertonic saline)
- Transient hypotension (contrast)
- Transient breathing difficulty (contrast)
- Headache (contrast)
- Seizures (contrast)
- Nausea-vomiting (contrast)
- Dizziness (contrast)
- Myalgias (contrast, steroids)
- Aseptic meningitis
- Allergic rxn (contrast, local anesthesia, and hyaluronidase)
- Local anesthetics toxicity
- Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis suppression (steroids)
- Hyperglycemia (steroids)
- Electrolyte-metabolic disturbance (steroids)
- Muscle wasting (steroids)
- Impaired wound healing (steroids)
- Impaired immunologic function (steroids)
- Arachnoiditis (steroids, hypertonic saline).

Figure 10. Final placement of the catheter by anteroposterior fluoroscopic imaging in cervical neuroplasty.
Post-procedure recommendations
Patients should be advised to exercise to mobilize nerve root movement after the procedure. If these exercises are done effectively 3 times per day for a few months, regeneration of scar tissue will be restricted. These exercises are called “neural flossing” exercises.

Cervical neural flossing exercises
The patient is stood parallel to the wall. The arm is opened to the side and pressure is applied to the wall to stretch the arm. Head is tilted on the other side. Finally, the chin is rotated toward the shoulder (Fig. 11).

Lumbar neural flossing exercises
The patient lies on his/her back. Knees are brought to the chest with bent legs. Legs are raised to 90 degrees with straight knees. Finally, legs are spreaded in V shape (Fig. 12).

Effectiveness and evidence level
Percutaneous adhesiolysis to relieve refractory low back and lower extremity pain is a technique whose efficacy has been showed by multiple randomized controlled trials. In a prospective observational study evaluating 66 patients with lumbar spinal stenosis which was performed percutaneous neureplasty, improvement (including slightly healed, very healed, and no painless reports) was observed in 49 participants (74.2%) at 2 weeks and in 45 participants (66.7%) at 6 months after the procedure. There was no statistically significant correlation between pain relief and dural sac cross-sectional area, age, or participant sex in this study. Manchikanti et al. compared epidural adhesiolysis and caudal epidural steroid injection in patients with lumbar central spinal stenosis in another study. This evaluation showed significant pain relief (≥50%) in 76% of the patients at 1 year follow-up in the adhesiolysis group compared to 4% of the patients in the control group. In a study of 120 patients with chronic function limiting pain after lumbar surgery was revealed that significant pain relief (≥50%) in 73% of the patients and functional improvement (≥40% reduction in Oswestry scores) in 77% undergoing adhesiolysis at 1-year follow-up. Significant differences were observed between control group and adhesiolysis group. In addition, percutaneous neuroplasty is thought to be more effective in patients who have not previously undergone lumbar surgery.

In the literature review by Helm et al. 1474 articles were found related to the effectiveness of percutaneous adhesiolysis from 1966 to 2012. Only five randomized, controlled trials and two observational studies met criteria for inclusion. These studies were indicated that there is fair evidence that percutaneous adhesiolysis is effective in relieving low back and/or leg pain caused by post-lumbar surgery syn-
Percutaneous and endoscopic adhesiolysis

JULY 2021

137

Diagnosis

Physical and radiologic examination

Physical examination and radiological evaluation were discussed in "Percutaneous Adhesiolysis" chapter.

Indications

• Failed back surgery syndrome
• Epidural fibrosis
• Lumbar radiculopathy
• Spinal stenosis
• Lumbar disc bulges.

Contraindications

In 2006, the consensus committee of the World Initiative on Spinal Endoscopy defined the following contraindications:

• Local infection
• Sepsis
• Coagulopathies
• Inability to lie in prone position
• Patient refusal
• Psychiatric disease
• Retinal disease
• Increase in intracranial pressure
• Pregnancy
• Bowel and bladder dysfunction
• Sensory disturbance in the S2-S4 area
• Congenital anomalies that do not permit safe endoscopy
• Cerebrovascular disease
• Renal or liver insufficiency
• Severe respiratory insufficiency
• High risk of cardiovascular disease
• Anal fistula
• Sacral osteomyelitis
• Meningeal cysts
• Meningoceles/meningomyeloceles
• Malignant tumors.

Equipment

• 9 and 10 French central access catheter with dilators
• Guidewire
• 0.8–1.0 mm fiber optic scope
• 25 Gauge infiltration needle
• 18 Gauge needle
• No 11 blade scalpel
• 4–10 mL syringe
• IV T-piece extension

In addition, caudal, transforaminal, and S1 foraminal approaches were compared in 60 patients who underwent lumbar surgery. Akbas et al. [36,37] showed that the three anatomical approaches (caudal, S1 foraminal, and L5-S1 transforaminal) used in percutaneous neuroplasty have the same pain relief outcomes and complication rates.

In addition, caudal, transforaminal, and S1 foraminal approaches were compared in 60 patients who underwent lumbar surgery. Akbas et al. [36,37] showed that the three anatomical approaches (caudal, S1 foraminal, and L5-S1 transforaminal) used in percutaneous neuroplasty have the same pain relief outcomes and complication rates.

In the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians evidence-based guidelines, Epidural Adhesiolysis was at the level of evidence showing a strong correlation with the level of evidence 1B or 1C for post-lumbar surgery syndrome. [38] Furthermore, in the analysis of systematic review of Manchikanti et al. [39] the evidence for percutaneous adhesion was shown to be level I.

Endoscopic Neuroplasty

History

Bruman [40] used arthroscopic instruments in cadaver vertebral column in 1931. The first myeloscope used on patients was developed by Stern [41] and the first in vivo examination of the spinal canal was performed by Pool. [42,43] From 1967 to 1977, Ooi et al. [44] performed 208 myeloscopies with an instrument that combined a flexible light source with rigid optics. Epiduroscopic technology with flexible optics has been used in clinical application on patients since the early 1990s. [45]
• 16 Gauge epidural needle
• Needle holder
• 2-0 nylon suture
• 26 cm epidural catheter
• Epidural catheter connector
• 22 × 2 split sponges
• 3 mL syringe
• Transparent surgical dressing.

Drugs
• 1% lidocaine for local anesthesia
• 0.25% preservative free levobupivacaine, bupivacaine, or 0.2% ropivacaine
• 0.9% preservative free saline
• 10% preservative free hypertonic saline
• 1500U hyaluronidase
• Steroids.

Technique
Epiduroscopy is performed after preprocedure antibiotic administration in sterile conditions under conscious sedation with continuous hemodynamic and respiratory monitoring. In general, communication with the patient must be possible at all times during the intervention. With the patient lying prone on the operating table, a pillow is placed underneath the abdomen to straighten the lumbar lordosis. The patient is prepared and draped in a sterile manner. The area around the sacral hiatus is anesthetized with 1% lidocaine. A 16 gauge epidural needle is inserted through the sacral hiatus under lateral X-ray control. This may be verified in both the anteroposterior and lateral fluoroscopic views. An epidurogram is performed with 10 mL of water soluble non-ionic contrast agent. Next, a guidewire is threaded through the Tuohy needle under fluoroscopic guidance to L5 or S1 level. The epidural needle is then removed. A small incision is made. Using a Seldinger technique, an introducer is advanced over the guidewire into sacral epidural space. After the dilatation, the video-guided catheter containing the flexible epiduroscope is inserted. Fluoroscopy is necessary to verify the proper placement (Fig. 13). During the epiduroscopy procedure, injection rates of 0.9% saline should not exceed 30 ml/minute and total infused volume should not exceed 100 mL. The amount of irrigation solution used and the processing time must be monitored. It is generally recommended that the processing time should not exceed 30 min. Pressure in the epidural space can be monitored. Although there is no support in the literature, it seems logical that the epidural pressure should not exceed the mean blood pressure.

The steerable fiberscope allows for three dimensional direct observations. The video guided catheter with epiduroscope is steered cranially under direct vision in the epidural space to the level of expected pathology in combination with fluoroscopy. The procedure must also be discontinued in case the patient experiences severe paresthesias and/or pain, neck pain or headache. Once adhesions are identified, attempts are made to rupture them mechanically by gentle movements of the video guided catheter and by bolus injections of small amounts of saline. After neuroplasty procedure, an epidurogram is made to record the result. Finally, a mixture of local anesthetics and steroids is injected. After the intervention, patients are monitored at the recovery room.

Complications
Complications are similar to percutaneous adhesiolysis.[47]

Post-procedure recommendations
The exercise recommendations described above also apply to epiduroscopic adhesiolysis.
Effectiveness of epiduroscopic neuroplasty

The sensitivity of epiduroscopy in epidural diagnosis to be 91%, and the ability to detect a pathologic lesion to be 75%. Although epiduroscopy provides both diagnosis and treatment, the complication rate and the need for experienced users should be kept in mind.

There are many publications in the literature on epiduroscopic adhesiolysis. Geurts et al. Richardson et al. and Igarashi et al. have reported effectiveness of epiduroscopic adhesiolysis on chronic back and radicular pain. In a randomized, double-blind and controlled study in 83 patients by Manchikanti et al. 80% of patients at 3 months, 56% of patients at 6 months, and 48% of patients at 12 months still showed improvement in their symptoms after epiduroscopic adhesiolysis. Takeshima et al. reported that epiduroscopic adhesiolysis was an effective treatment in patients with lumbar surgery and that adhesiolysis of the nerve root may have long-term efficacy in patients who are experiencing pain. Ceylan et al. compared 82 patients according to the type of stabilized and non-stabilized surgery for the efficacy of epiduroscopic adhesiolysis. This study showed that the combination of epiduroscopic adhesiolysis and hyaluronidase-steroid was more effective in pain control in patients without stabilization.

Comparison of percutaneous and endoscopic neuroplasty

Percutaneous adhesiolysis to treat refractory low back and lower extremity pain is a technique whose efficacy has been documented by more than one randomized controlled trials, while endoscopic adhesiolysis is a technique with limited evidence. Other differences are compared in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence level</th>
<th>Percutaneous adhesiolysis</th>
<th>Endoscopic adhesiolysis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sedation need</td>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>Frequent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training level</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Master</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complication</td>
<td>More rare</td>
<td>Rare</td>
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<td>Additional equipment</td>
<td>Fluoroscopy</td>
<td>Fluoroscopy and video monitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>At least one</td>
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**Table 1. Comparison of percutaneous and endoscopic adhesiolysis**

Percutaneous adhesiolysis of epidural adhesions is a safe and effective procedure, with minimal complications when performed by experienced practitioners. Epiduroscopy is one of the best diagnostic and therapeutic tools for difficult spinal pain syndromes with wider uses in the coming days but should perform by trained practitioners. Inexperienced users increase the duration of the procedure and the volume of infusion, which increases the possibility of complications. The total volume, speed, and time infused should be limited to avoid complications. Nevertheless, randomized controlled trials with high-quality data are needed to select procedure preferences and indications. Our advice is to choose that you are more experienced in the difficult cases.

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