

Central Neuraxial blocks

Ultrasound has been described as useful for placing epidural catheters in small children. In adults the epidural space is obscured by shadowing which limits ultrasound applications in the spine however spinal imaging is an expanding area of ultrasound practice and includes location of the midline, optimal needle trajectory, vertebral level and determining the depth of the epidural space. The epidural space may be imaged from a paramedian plane. The dura is often able to be distinguished and the ligamentum flavum is less often imaged.

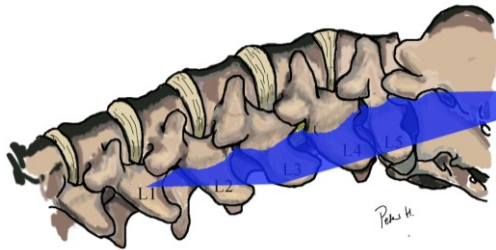


Fig 4.36 imaging in the midline is often unrewarding, the paramedian plane is best for imaging the dura.

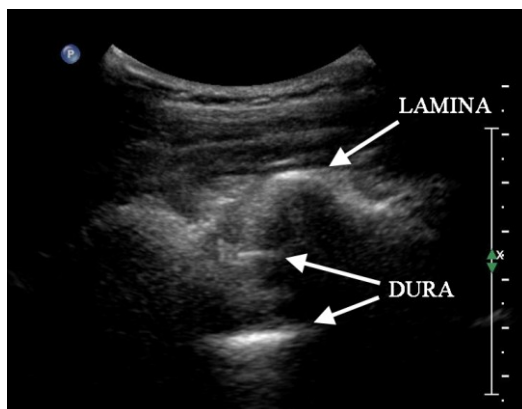


Fig 4.37 longitudinal imaging of the spine in the paramedian plane.

Imaging of the spine is best carried out with a lower frequency curvilinear probe to improve penetration.

In describing this ultrasound guided procedure it has been assumed that attention has been paid to appropriate location, personnel, sterility, preparation, doses and technique necessary for the safe conduct of major nerve blocks and other procedures. These medical procedures should not be attempted without suitable qualifications

Acknowledgements

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<http://visiblehuman.epfl.ch/>