

**Albrecht E, Morfey D, et al. Single-injection or continuous femoral nerve block for total knee arthroplasty? Clin Orthop Relat Res. 2014;472(5):1384-93.**

Design: Randomized clinical trial

Study question: In the setting of femoral nerve block after total knee arthroplasty (TKA), are there differences in time to discharge, early pain scores, analgesic consumption, and functional outcomes depending on the concentration and volume of ropivacaine used for analgesia?

Reasons not to cite as evidence:

- The study was unable to detect a difference between intervention groups for three different protocols for ropivacaine infusion
- However, due to unanticipated changes in the hospital's pain protocols as the study was recruiting patients, the study had to be terminated when less than 60% of the target sample size had enrolled
- The lack of a difference between groups therefore cannot be interpreted due to the study being truncated because of institutional changes in hospital protocol; through no fault of the authors, the study goals could not be met because of circumstances beyond their control
- The study question, dealing with differences in detail of ropivacaine infusion, is of little relevance to a lower extremity guideline, and the study question need not be resolved