

**Wegener JT, van Ooij B, et al. Long-term pain and functional disability after total knee arthroplasty with and without single-injection or continuous sciatic nerve block in addition to continuous femoral nerve block: a prospective, 1-year follow-up of a randomized controlled trial. Reg Anesth Pain Med. 2013 Jan-Feb;38(1):58-63.**

Design: One-year followup of Wegener et al 2011

Study question: In patients who had TKA one year previously, did the administration of sciatic nerve block yield better outcomes than those observed for patients who had femoral nerve block only?

Reasons not to cite as evidence:

- The Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) and pain VAS scored did not differ at 3 months or 12 months between patients who had only femoral nerve block and those who had sciatic nerve block in addition
- However, functional scores at one year do not measure such pertinent factors as patient satisfaction and whether they would have the operation again
- There is insufficient information for evidence that sciatic nerve block at the time of TKA is not worth doing, since the 12 month outcomes are not sensitive enough to early postoperative pain, which may be important to patients
- There is insufficient information to recommend in favor of or against sciatic nerve block in addition to femoral nerve block at the time of TKA
- Most decisions regarding anesthesia are likely to follow hospital protocols and anesthesiologists' preferences rather than Workers' Compensation guidelines, which probably do not need to recommend for or against these details of procedure