





THORACIC WALL BLOCKS FOR BREAST CANCER SURGERY

Barbara Versyck, Kris Vermeylen, Renee van den Broek, Sari Casaer, Geert-Jan van Geffen

INTERPECTORAL-PECTOSERRATUS **PLANE**

Patient position: supine, arm abducted

Transducer: linear

Needle: 22 G, 5 cm short bevel Local anesthetic: 20 + 20 ml

ABBREVIATIONS

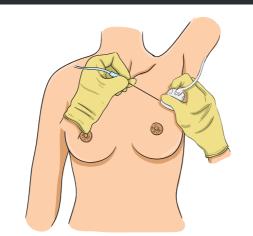
Pectoralis major Pmi SA IC

Pectoralis minor Serratus anterior Intercostal

SC fat Subcutaneous fat tissue

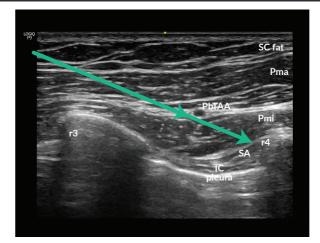
Pectoral branch of thoracoacromial artery

PROBE AND NEEDLE



Transducer position: place transducer under lateral third of clavicule, at level of r3-r4. Then, turn probe 45° clockwise. Needle approach: in plane from medial to lateral.

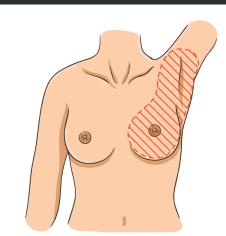
ULTRASOUND IMAGE



Required view: r3 and r4 in combination with Pma and Pmi. If possible with PbTaa and SA.

Technique: needle insertion towards r4 aiming medial of PbTaa. First, lower (pectoserratus plane) injection under Pmi. Then, retract needle for upper (interpectoral plane) injection between Pma and Pmi. Spread of LA: linear fluid spread underneath Pmi and between Pma and Pmi. Avoid globular spread which indicates intramuscular injection.

INDICATIONS



Indications: unilateral breast and axillary analgesia. Tips: Aim needle at underlying rib to avoid pleura puncture. For breast surgery interpectoral + serratus plane block at this level will give similar effect as interpectoral-pectoserratus plane block. Use 20 ml + 20 ml to ensure sufficient spread in the axillary region.

PARASTERNAL INTERFASCIAL **PLANE**

Patient position: supine **Transducer:** linear

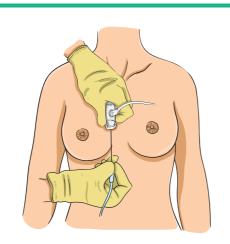
Needle: 22 G, 5 cm short bevel Local anesthetic: 20 ml

ABBREVIATIONS

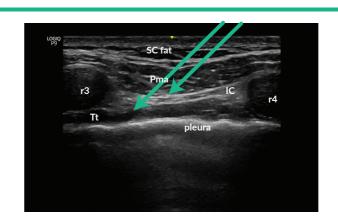
Pma IC

Pectoralis major Intercostal Rih

SC fat Subcutaneous fat tissue Transversus thoracis

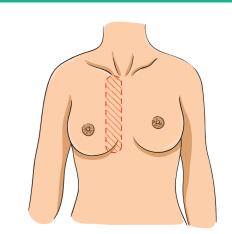


Transducer position: place transducer parasagittal at level of r3-r4, 2 cm lateral to sternum. Needle approach: in plane from caudal to cephalad.



Required view: r3 and r4 in combination with Pma. **Technique:** needle insertion aiming towards r3. Superficial: deep to Pma and superficial to IC. Deep: deep to IC and superficial to Tt. Spread of LA: linear fluid spread underneath Pma (superficial)

or underneath IC (deep).



Indications: unilateral parasternal analgesia. Tips: Add to interpectoral-pectoserratus plane block in case of medial breast surgery. Aim needle towards rib to avoid pleura puncture. The caudal to cephalad needle insertion prevents interference between the clavicule and the path of the needle insertion.

ERECTOR SPINAE PLANE

Patient position: sitting, lateral or

prone position

ABBREVIATIONS

Transducer: linear or curved depending on body posture (switch at TP depth $\pm 4 cm$

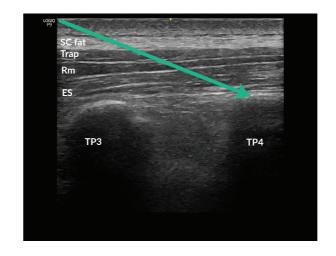
Needle: 18G Tuohy needle or 8-10 cm short bevel needle Local anesthetic: 20-40 ml

Trap Rhom ES TP

Trapezius Rhomboideus Erector spinae Transverse process Subcutaneous fat tissue

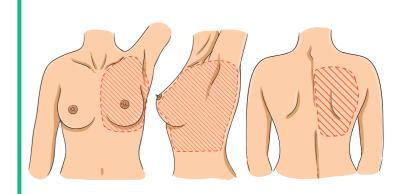
Transducer position: place transducer parasagittal at level of fourth spinous process, then move ±3 cm lateral, visualising the transverse process.

Needle approach: in plane from cephalad to caudal.



Required view: TP3 and TP4 in combination with Trap, Rm and ES. **Technique:** needle insertion aiming towards top of TP5. Injection under ES.

Spread of LA: linear fluid spread lifting the erector spinae muscle off the tip of the TP. Avoid globular spread which indicates intramuscular injection.



Indications: analgesia of unilateral thoracic wall T2-T6. Tips: higher volume generates broader spread, dilute LA with NaCl 0.9% if necessary.

PARAVERTEBRAL

Patient position: sitting position with arched back, lateral 'foetal' position or prone

Transducer: linear or curved depending on body posture (switch at TP depth $\pm 4 cm$

Needle: 18 G Tuohy needle or 8-10 cm short bevel needle Local anesthetic: 10-20 ml

ABBREVIATIONS

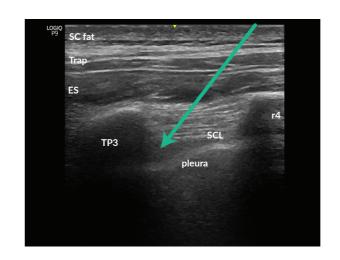
Trap ES

Trapezius Erector spinae

SCL Superior costotransverse ligament TP Transverse process **SC fat** Subcutaneous fat tissue

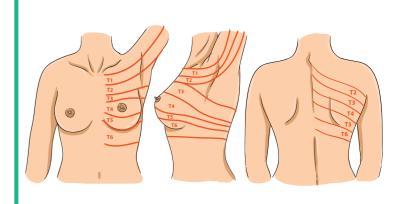
Transducer position: place transducer medial at level of third spinous process for parasagital view, then move ±3 cm lateral, visualising the transverse process.

Needle approach: in plane from cephalad to caudal.



Spread of LA: lateral spread underneath superior costotransverse ligament, pushing the pleura down. Technique: needle insertion aiming towards SCL, then breach SCL to reach paravertebral space.

Required view: TP superiorly, rib inferiorly, connected through SCL.



Indications: unilateral analgesia of segmental somatosensory and sympathetic nerves without axilla.

Tips: Rotate caudad part of US beam away from midline to optimize your ultrasound image. Due to the steep angulation of the needle, visualisation of needle tip may be challenging, use an echogenic needle. Perform the block at a mid-dermatomal level with reference to the surgical site, T3-4 for simple mastectomy. When greater dermatomal spread is desired, perform multilevel injections.

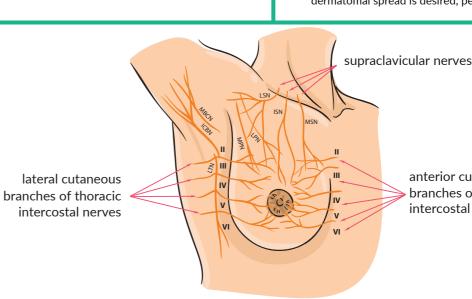
THE INNERVATION OF THE BREAST AND AXILLARY REGION

ABBREVIATIONS

LTN ISN MSN LPN MPN

ICBN

Long thoracic nerve Lateral supraclavicular nerve Intermediate supraclavicular nerve Medial supraclavicular nerve Lateral pectoral nerve Medial pectoral nerve Intercostobrachial nerve MBCN Medial brachial cutaneous nerve



anterior cutaneous branches of thoracic intercostal nerves