



The informational needs of postpartum Spanish-speaking parturients undergoing obstetric anesthesia

Mariana Restrepo BA, Sananda Pai BS, Talia Scott MD, and Garrett W. Burnett MD



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Background and Hypothesis

- Spanish-speaking Hispanic patients face various sociodemographic disparities
 - More likely to undergo cesarean delivery, experience severe maternal morbidity^{1,2}
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends epidural anesthesia for labor pain³
- Spanish-speaking patients anticipate using labor analgesia less and are less likely to receive it⁴
- **Aims**
 - To identify the knowledge sources patients use to inform themselves, the satisfaction with the information received, and the overall importance of receiving information in Spanish
- **Hypothesis**
 - There are currently gaps in the health education Spanish-speakers are receiving prior to hospital admission for labor and delivery

Study Design and Methods

- **Data Collection**
 - 30 in-person interviews conducted on the postpartum floor at a high-volume urban hospital with a diverse patient population
 - >18 years old, self-identified as native Spanish-speakers
- **5-minute questionnaire**
 - Demographics (age, number of total pregnancies/live births, ASA physical status)
 - Pre-anesthesia information sources
 - Satisfaction with information after anesthesia
 - Free response

Results

- **Patient characteristics**
 - 29.5 years old, completed 11.5 years of education, 83.3% received epidural anesthesia
- **Patient preferences (Table 1)**

Characteristic	Total Sample (n=30)
<i>Anesthesia preference pre-admission, n (%)</i>	
Yes	15 (50.0)
<i>Importance of information available in Spanish, n (%)</i>	
Very important	22 (73.3)
<i>Primary source of obstetric anesthesia information, n (%)</i>	
Internet	3 (10.0)
Social media	2 (6.7)
Healthcare professional	20 (66.7)
Family or friends	1 (3.3)
Other	4 (13.3)

Table 1. Patient preferences, satisfaction, and sources of obstetric anesthesia information.

- 27% would have liked to know more information: anesthesia side effects, top-offs, duration
- Labor analgesia was better than anticipated and helped achieve pain control and anxiety relief during labor for 8 patients

Discussion and Conclusion

- **Discussion**

- Spanish-speaking patients would have liked to know more about side effects, timing, and logistics related to obstetric anesthesia
- Quality pre-admission counseling and the distribution of detailed educational materials is critical
- Patients relied on obstetricians and anesthesiologists for health education rather than written material
 - The number of patients who rely on the Internet or social media is not negligible
- Educational programs may increase epidural usage among Hispanic patients by reducing misconceptions about labor anesthesia⁵

- **Conclusion**

- Obstetric anesthesia patients are mainly relying on their healthcare providers for health education, and there is room for improvement in the information they receive

Questions?



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References

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