



BRACHIAL PLEXUS BLOCK IN THE GREEN TURTLE *Chelonia mydas* USING A PERIPHERAL NERVE STIMULATOR AND THE MULTIPLE INJECTION TECHNIQUE

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The aim of the present study was to describe the brachial plexus block technique in a *Chelonia mydas* sea turtle submitted to a cubital articulation (elbow) arthrodesis. A young *C. mydas*, weighing 7.0 kg and measuring 32.5 cm of curved carapace length was submitted to the TAMAR-IBAMA Project - Ubatuba Base - São Paulo, presenting a luxation of the left elbow. The animal was physically restrained and placed in ventral decubitus. After local antisepsis, the brachial plexus block technique was initiated. Nerves were located using a peripheral nerve stimulator, by placing a special needle (stimulator needle A100 - Stimuplex - B. Braun) in the half of the second marginal scute, advancing until half of the union of the first central scutes and the first lateral scute. The peripheral nerve stimulator was initially set to deliver 1.0 mA pulses at 1.0 Hz and then, the current was gradually decreased until muscular contractions could be obtained using a current inferior to 0.6 mA. At this moment, the multiple injection technique was performed using a 2.0 mg/kg 0.375% bupivacaine solution with vasoconstrictor. The following results were obtained: the heart rate was kept around 22 beats per minute; the respiratory rate was kept around 1 breath per minute; the technique performance time was 12 minutes; the motor and sensory latency time was 10 minutes, and the duration of the block was 7 hours. During the entire surgical procedure the animal remained conscious and presented no signs of pain. The motoricity of the contralateral limb and of the rest of the body were preserved. There were no complications during the 24 hours after the procedure. The block was effective allowing the performance of the surgical procedure. The brachial plexus block technique using a peripheral nerve stimulator and the multiple injection technique provided the anesthesia of the humerus in all its extension, as well as the anesthesia of the cubital articulation of the turtle.

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