

2. Regional Anesthesia and Interventional Pain Management in Georgia: Education and Development Vakhtang Shoshiashvili, Levan Ratiani, Ketevan Machavariani

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Pain continues to be one of the most significant problems for humanity, affects 20% of the population and accounts for 22% of the visits to primary healthcare organizations [1,2].

Pain management is multidisciplinary and includes a significant role for regional anesthesia and interventional pain management. Regional anesthesia has a long history, but its widespread implementation in practice began in the 1970s, related to advancements in pain research, pharmacology, and the development of medical technologies and equipment.

Global trends have been reflected in Georgia, where regional anesthesia methods and interventional pain management have been widely adopted over the past 20 years. After Foundation of International Association for the study of pain, many regional organizations have been founded worldwide, including the Georgian chapter [3]. Also, there were created other professional organizations such as Georgian Association of Obstetrician-Gynecologists, the Georgian Board of Anesthesiology and Critical Medicine, GeoAnesthesia, and the Georgian School of Anesthesiologists which are promoting regional anesthesia and pain management. At the same time, masterclasses in peripheral regional anesthesia have been conducted in various clinics, and many methods of acute and chronic pain management have been implemented. During the period of 2013-15, research highlighting the advantages of regional anesthesia for arteriovenous fistula formation was successfully released, funded by a two-year grant from the Rustaveli Foundation. As a result of this and other activities, different presentations have been made at major global congresses such as EFIC, CIRSE, and others, numerous publications have appeared in local and international medical journals. In addition to this, in Georgian language we have two monographs with insights into modern achievements in regional anesthesia.

Georgian doctors have participated in various conferences, masterclasses and workshops, including the annual Geoanesthesia congress. To enhance physician qualifications, training programs have been conducted in TSMU, such as: "Spinal Anesthesia in Obstetrics and Perinatal Medicine," "Epidural Anesthesia in Obstetrics and Perinatal Medicine," and "Peripheral Nerve Blocks in Modern Anesthesiology." Additionally, a training program on "Regional Anesthesia and Interventional Pain Management" is planned.

Regional anesthesia and pain management are rapidly evolving and enriched with new approaches and methods, requiring a team approach to managing acute and chronic pain syndromes. The progress made and the growing interest from colleagues give hope that this field of medicine will continue to expand and firmly establish itself in our country.

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