**Effects of epidural anesthesia**

• The requirements from these techniques is paralysis of sensory nerves to the area in

which surgery is going to be performed.

• Muscle relaxation can be an added bonus or a disadvantage.

**Autonomic effects of epidural anesthesia**

• Many of the spinal nerves also carry fibers of the autonomic nervous system, which will

also be blocked.

• Most important to the anesthetist are the sympathetic fibers, responsible for vasomotor

tone. Thus epidural anesthesia always causes hypotension; and if the block is

sufficiently anterior to block the splanchnic outflow, this hypotension can be severe, even

life threatening.