Spinal vs Epidural Anesthesia

Intradural (spinal) and epidural: speed, needle, dose and level

S Spinal (intradural)

- fast, intense, limited duration
- fine needle, no catheter, low dose
- CSF flows out
- below L1

E Epidural

- slow, less intense
- thick needle, catheter can be left, high dose
- loss of resistance
- any level

Spinal
Fast and potent but short

Epidural
Slow and gentle, prolongable with a catheter

Post-dural puncture
Headache is typical of spinal anesthesia

Spinal deposits the drug in the CSF · epidural leaves it in the epidural space