Contents

| Introduction | 1 |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Anatomy of the vertebral column | 3 |
| Physiology of pain in labor | 16 |
| Pharmacology of opioids | 32 |
| Advantages | 81 |
| The side effects of spinal opioids | 90 |
| Recent up dates | 102 |
| Summery | 107 |
| References | 109 |