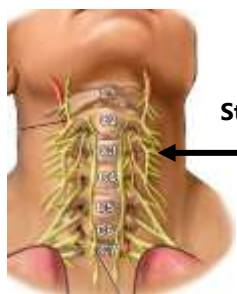


Stellate ganglion block

Stellate ganglion

The stellate ganglion is part of a larger system of nerves called sympathetic nervous system. These nerves help control the size of blood vessels that flow to the arms, head, and neck. They may also send pain signals from the head, neck, or arms.



Stellate ganglion nerves

Medical Illustration(s) © 2019 Nucleus Medical

How the block helps

We often do this block to relieve pain in the head, neck, upper arm, and upper chest. The pain may be caused by conditions such as:

- Complex regional pain syndrome.
- Phantom limb pain.
- Nerve pain.

How soon you start to feel relief and how long the relief lasts is different for each person. For some, relief lasts for weeks. For others it can last for years.

Before the procedure

We will call you several days before the procedure and tell you:

- Where and when to arrive.
- When to stop drinking and eating.

Medicines and allergies

We will ask for:

- The name and dose of all the medicines your child takes.
- A list of all the allergies your child has.



Your child may need to stop taking some of the medicines before the procedure.

How we give the block

This takes approximately 15 to 20 minutes

1. We start an IV (intravenous) and give IV medicine to relax. IV is a small tube we place into a vein.
2. Your child will lie on the X-ray table on their back.
3. We clean your child's neck with special soap. This helps to decrease the chance of infection.
4. The doctor then injects numbing medicine into the area where we do the block.
5. An X-ray or ultrasound will guide your doctor during the procedure.
6. Immediately after the procedure, your child may feel pain relief. However, this initial pain relief may wear off after several hours.

7. Your child will begin to feel better when the steroid medicine starts working, usually 3 to 7 days later.

When we cannot do this procedure

Your child cannot have this procedure if they:

- Have allergies to any X-ray dye, seafood, furosemide (Lasix®), or any of the medicines we may inject.
- Are on a blood thinning medicine such as warfarin (Coumadin®), heparin, or enoxaparin (Lovenox®).
- Have an active infection.
- Have a temperature over 101°F (degrees Fahrenheit) or 38.3°C (degrees Celsius).
- Have a low platelet count.

Risks

Generally speaking, this procedure is safe. However, like any procedure there are risks, side effects, and possible complications. We will explain these risks to you. The risks may include, but are not limited to:

- Tenderness
- Bruising
- Bleeding at the injection site
- Temporary weakness
- Infection
- Nerve damage
- Allergic reaction to the local anesthetic or medicine
- Organ injury

Pain Management

For contacts and locations visit:

cookchildrens.org/services/pain-management/

or



These instructions are only general guidelines. Your healthcare provider may give you special instructions. If you have questions or concerns, please call your healthcare provider.