



Patient Sticker

Informed Consent: Nerve blocks for lower limb surgery

Nerve blocks are the injection of a local anaesthetic drug close to or around a nerve or a group of nerves. The involved area/limb is temporarily numbed or paralyzed for the duration of the block. Specialized techniques, equipment and needles are being used to minimize the occurrence of complications. The most important advantage of nerve blocks is pain control. The anaesthetist will consider all relevant factors when deciding on the best anaesthetic technique for you and it is important to discuss any question you may have with him/her.

❖ Femoral block:

This is a block done in the groin area and is generally used for painful knee surgery like knee replacements or knee ligament surgery. The thigh and knee areas remain numb for the duration of the block for about 6-12 hours.

❖ Popliteal block:

This block is specifically for surgery of the lower limb and foot and is done at the level of the knee. The duration of this block is 6-24 hours.

❖ Ankle block:

This block is used for ankle surgery and is being done around the ankle and works for about 4-8 hours.

Contraindications:

Patients with pre-existing nerve damage to the limb.
Patients who are allergic to local anesthetic drugs.

Despite meticulous care and precautionary measures all medical procedures have potential complications. It is your right to refuse consent to have a nerve block.

Complications:

❖ Not serious (Common)

- Pain during injection. (if done in the awake state)
- Swelling at the injection site.
- Bleeding at the injection site.
- Partial or unsuccessful block.

❖ More serious (Uncommon)

- Prolonged block with numbness/paralysis. (days/months)

❖ Very Serious (Extremely rare)

- Absorption of the local anaesthetic drug into the circulation with a toxic/allergic reaction.
- Permanent damage to nerves with paralysis/numbness.

This list of complications may not be complete, and is not meant to scare you, but rather to help you make an informed decision regarding your anaesthetic. Nerve blocks are an option we are providing to help with post operative pain control and it stays your choice to decide whether you want it or not. You are under no obligation to have it done. We encourage you to discuss any uncertainties about nerve blocks with your anaesthetist.

I _____ have read and understand the above and consent to the administration of a nerve block on myself/my dependant.

Signed _____ Date _____
Patient/parent or guardian)

PLEASE HAND THE SIGNED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT TO YOUR SURGEON FOR SAFE KEEPING.