



Interscalene Brachial Plexus Block

OVERVIEW

This procedure is performed to reduce the pain in the patient's shoulder and upper arm which allows the surgeon and therapist to manipulate and rehabilitate the patient more effectively.

STEP 1

The patient is placed supine with the head facing away from the side to be blocked. The physician will locate the clavicle, sternal notch and jugular vein and mark them. A local anesthetic numbs the skin and tissue below.

STEP 2

The physician connects a nerve stimulator to the needle and slowly advances the needle until stimulation of the brachial plexus is obtained.

STEP 3

Once appropriate twitches of the brachial plexus are elicited, local anesthetic is injected slowly with intermittent aspiration to rule out intravascular injection of the anesthetic solution.

STEP 4

This procedure should take effect soon after completion. The patient should expect loss of coordination in the shoulder and arm muscles for a few hours.

STEP 5

You will be observed in the patient recovery area. Many patients will develop a horse voice and nasal congestion after the procedure. It is important to remember that this procedure is only part of your treatment. This will allow the surgeon and/or therapist to manipulate the patient's shoulder and/or arm with minimal or no pain experienced by the patient.

INDICATIONS

Post shoulder/upper arm surgery, shoulder/upper arm injury, shoulder capsulitis

Solution is injected slowly into the brachial plexus

