

Stellate Ganglion Block



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This pain management procedure is used to diagnose or/and treat pain that originates from sympathetic nerves. The Stellate Ganglion Block is a treatment for Complex Regional Pain Syndromes and for shingles that can affect your head, face, neck and arms. Usually a series of such injections is needed to obtain prolonged pain relief.

During the procedure a patient lies on his/her back on the table. A physician uses the fluoroscope to confirm the correct location of the needle tip and to visualize the painful areas. The patient receives intravenous anesthetic for relaxation and local anesthetic to numb the skin and tissue down to the ganglion nerves. Then a mixture of anesthetic and anti-inflammatory medicine is injected to block pain signals that travel to the brain via the ganglion nerve from reaching the brain. If the first injection alleviates pain, more can follow over time. Pain relief usually lasts longer after each injection.

Stellate Ganglion Block Side Effects:

Common side effects of this pain management procedure could be compared with common injection side effects, i.e. allergic reaction, bacterial infection, bleeding in seldom cases. Side effects from the steroids include swelling of the face, eyes, arms and legs as well as increased blood sugar levels in diabetic patients.

The patient must inform the physician about pregnancy, if he/she takes blood thinning medication or if there is an active infection.

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