

## 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

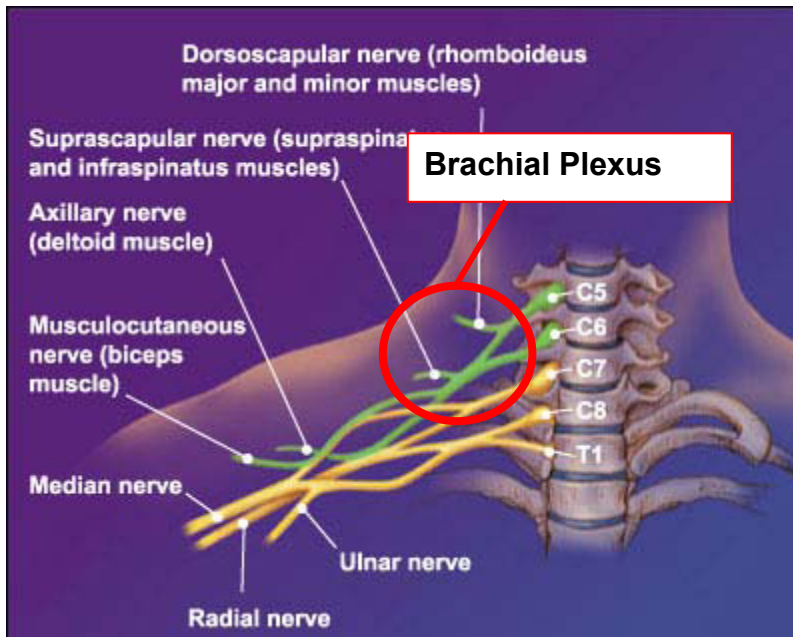
This procedure should take effect soon after completion. The patient should expect loss of coordination in the shoulder and arm muscles for a few hours.

#### 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

