

FEMORAL NERVE BLOCK & CATHETER INFORMATION

FULLERTON ANESTHESIA ASSOCIATES

Femoral Nerve Block & Catheter: Your surgeon may request this block for post-operative pain relief in surgical procedures involving the knee, hip and upper leg.

- **Description:** A plastic catheter which is placed adjacent to the femoral nerve. The catheter is connected to a pump that coats the nerve with local anesthetic and blocks painful sensations from the knee, thigh and hip regions.
- **Benefits** Significant to total pain relief after extensive knee, hip and anterior thigh surgical procedures. It can be especially helpful for total knee replacement surgery and anterior cruciate ligament repairs. Potential benefits are: decreased pain medication requirements, less post-operative sedation, decreased likelihood of post-operative nausea and vomiting, and possibly earlier discharge home.
- **Normal course:** Numbness of thigh, knee and inside of ankle and foot. This numbness usually lasts 12-18 hours after the catheter infusion is discontinued
 - Once the numbness starts to wear off, the discomfort from surgery will intensify progressively over the next 1-2 hours. Therefore we recommend starting oral narcotics (e.g. Norco or Percocet) and anti-inflammatory medications (e.g. Ibuprofen or Motrin) as soon as oral medications are tolerated. These medications should be taken on a scheduled basis, allowing for a smooth transition from the nerve block to oral medication based pain relief.
- **Normal and Expected side effects:** A weakness, tingling and heaviness can last as long as the local anesthetic effect.
- **Risks:** Failed block, bleeding, infection, reaction to local anesthetic including seizure and cardiac arrest, peripheral nerve injury or persistent tingling sensation are all potential risks. Please discuss any concerns regarding these risks with your anesthesiologist.
- **Additional recommendations:** Please keep the operative leg well protected for the duration of numbness. Ambulate only with assistance or crutches since leg strength may be reduced until the block wears off.
- **Post Operative call:** To ensure your safety, you will receive a nursing call 24 hours after surgery if you are going home. If you have additional concerns, or if you feel that the medications are not wearing off, please inform the nurse or your anesthesiologist.

Please discuss all concerns regarding this procedure and your anesthetic care with your anesthesiologist. The above information is not intended as a substitute for a complete discussion with your anesthesiologist. It is intended for your education and to enhance your ability to ask informed questions. You may contact an anesthesiologist with Fullerton Anesthesiology Associates at any time by calling **St. Jude Medical Center at (714) 992-3000 ext. 3714.**