

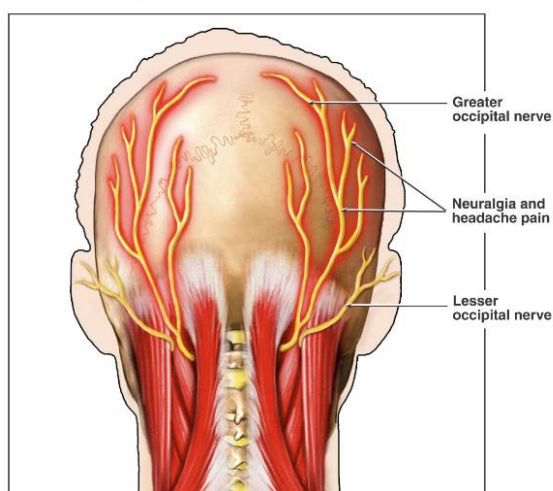
Pain Management

682-885-7246

1500 Cooper Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76104

Occipital Nerve Block

The occipital nerve supplies the back and top of the head with sensations and feelings.



How block helps

The steroid reduces the inflammation and the swelling of tissue around the occipital nerves. This, in turn, helps to decrease pain and other symptoms caused by inflammation.

The occipital nerve block can help headaches that occur over the back of the head, such as tension headaches and migraine headaches.

How we give the block

Takes approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

1. We clean the skin on the back of your head to help decrease the chance of infection.
2. We inject a small amount of local anesthetic and a steroid medicine into the area of the scalp around the occipital nerve.

Occipital Nerve Block

Immediately after the injection, you will notice pain relief. This effect is usually from the local anesthetic injected and wears off in a few hours.

- Steroid starts working in about 4 to 7 days.
- Can last for several days up to 3 months.

We call you several days before the procedure.

We will tell you:

- Where and when to arrive.
- When to stop drinking and eating.

Medicines and Allergies:

- We will ask for the name and dose of all medicines your child takes.
- We will ask if your child has allergies.

Note: You may need to stop taking some of your medicines before the procedure.

Please know:

You should *not* have this procedure if you:

1. Have allergies to any x-ray dye, seafood, Lasix or any of the medicines we may inject.
2. Are on a blood thinning medicine such as Coumadin, heparin, or Lovenox.
3. Have an active infection.
4. Have a temperature over 101 degrees.
5. Have a low platelet count.

Risks

Generally speaking, this procedure is safe.

However, like any procedure there are risks, side effects, and the possibility of complications.

- Tenderness, neck spasm, swelling
- Bruising
- Bleeding at the injection site
- Infection
- Allergic reaction to the local anesthetic or medicine

These instructions are only general guidelines. Your doctors may give you special instructions. If you have any questions or concerns, please call your doctor.