



Information for You from Your Health Care Team

Trigeminal Ganglion Block

The trigeminal nerve is the nerve that supplies feeling and movement in the face. The ganglion are the surrounding nerve cells.

When is a trigeminal ganglion block used?

A block is used when the trigeminal nerve causes extreme pain and muscle spasms in the face when the pain occurs from:

- Trigeminal neuralgia
- Cluster headache
- Cancer related pain
- Atypical facial pain

What happens during a trigeminal ganglion block

You will be asked to lie on your back on the x-ray table. The side of the face where the pain is felt is cleaned with a special solution called betadine. Next, a local anesthesia of lidocaine will be given to numb the area. Once the area is numb a needle is inserted through the skin, which is directed under x-ray until it reaches the trigeminal ganglion. A local anesthetic and steroid will then be injected after making sure that the needle is not in a blood vessel or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).

Are there side effects and risks?

Possible side effects and risks are:

- The procedure itself can be painful.
- Temporary double vision
- Long lasting numbness to face
- The medicine used for the block can go into a blood vessel or Injection of medicine into blood vessel or CSF
- Loss of awareness of surroundings (unconscious)
- Cardiac arrest