



BRACHIAL PLEXUS BLOCK

Definition: A brachial plexus block involves injection of an anti-inflammatory agent and a numbing medicine around the nerves that go into the arm. This is done in either the side of the neck or under the arm (armpit). The mixture will bathe the nerves, block the pain message, and promote the healing process.

Reasons for Treatment: Considerable experience and studies have shown this treatment to be effective in relieving pain mainly in the arm, shoulder, and hand. It is used to treat shingles, nerve injury pain, poor circulation, and some shoulder problems.

Procedure: (What to Expect)-The treatments are generally given in a series over a few weeks. The injection site (neck or under arm) will be cleansed. The skin will be numbed and the needle placed into the proper position. You may feel a sensation of pressure as the medicine is injected. Pressure will be applied to the area for about five minutes. You will be watched and monitored for about thirty minutes. The nurse will then assist you in preparing to go home, answer any questions, and order tests, if needed. An appointment will be made for your next visit. You may experience side effects; such as numbness of the arm, pain in the arm, swelling, or hoarseness, for up to a few days.