

## STELLATE GANGLION BLOCK

**Definition:** A stellate ganglion block involves injection of an anti-inflammatory agent and a numbing medicine in the front of the neck. This will bathe the affected nerves, block the pain message, and promote the healing process.

**Reasons for Treatment:** Considerable experience and studies have shown that this treatment is effective in relieving pain in the face, head, or arm. It is effective for shingles, poor circulation, and pain from nerve damage.

**Procedure:** The treatments are generally given in a series over a few weeks. We will assist you into the proper position; you can be mildly sedated for this procedure (twilight sleep). The area will be cleansed with an antiseptic solution. The skin will be numbed and the needle placed. At this time, you may feel a sensation of pressure in the neck 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 assist you to prepare to return home and give you discharge instructions. We will answer any questions, make your next appointment, and order tests, if necessary. For up to one day, you may experience side effects; such as a droopy or blood shot eye, hoarseness, a "lump-like" feeling in the throat, or weakness in the arm. Our physicians are on call twenty-four hours a day. If you have a problem, please contact Headache and Pain Center.



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