

Chemical neurolysis

Chemical neurolysis

Neurolysis is injecting a chemical agent into a nerve. This blocks or decreases the pain signals from that nerve and reduces some types of chronic pain.

How neurolysis helps

Chemical neurolysis is typically done for long term pain relief and can last from 6 to 12 months. In some cases, relief can last for years.

Before the procedure

We will call you several days before the procedure and 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 the medicines your child takes.
- A list of all the allergies your child has.



Your child may need to stop taking some of the medicines before the procedure.

How we give the block

The block takes approximately 30 minutes

1. We give a small amount of numbing medicine through the skin and into the

deeper tissues where the nerves are sending pain signals.

2. When the needle tip is in place, we inject the chemical agent.
3. We then give a local anesthetic at the site to numb the nerves.

Sometimes we use an ultrasound machine, X-ray, or special nerve stimulator to guide us for placing the needle.

Results

Immediately after the procedure, your child may experience pain as the chemicals are affecting the nerves. The pain after the procedure can last up to 2 weeks.

During this time, your child may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) and ibuprofen (Motrin®) every 6 hours to help the pain. Please give the dose recommended for your child's age and weight.

After 2 weeks, your child may have pain relief for 6 to 12 months, and in some cases, for years. As the nerves regenerate, pain may increase or worsen.

When we cannot do this procedure

Your child cannot have this procedure if they:

- Have allergies to any X-ray dye, seafood, furosemide (Lasix®), or any of the medicines we may inject.

- Are on a blood thinning medicines such as warfarin (Coumadin®), heparin, or enoxaparin (Lovenox®).
- Have an active infection.
- Have a temperature over 101°F (degrees Fahrenheit) or 38.3°C (degrees Celsius).
- Have a low platelet count.

Risks

Generally speaking, this procedure is safe. However, like any procedure there are risks, side effects, and possible complications. We will explain these risks to you. The risks may include, but are not limited to:

- Tenderness
- Swelling
- Bruising
- Bleeding at the injection site
- Temporary weakness
- Low blood pressure
- Infection
- Nerve damage
- Allergic reaction to the local anaesthetic or medicine
- Worsening pain
- Heart rhythm changes

Pain Management

For contacts and locations visit:

[cookchildrens.org/services/pain-management/](https://www.cookchildrens.org/services/pain-management/)



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