

Trigeminal Ganglion Block

An information guide



Trigeminal Ganglion Block

If you are on blood thinning medications such as Warfarin, Nicoumalone (Sinthrome), Aspirin, Clopidogrel (Plavix), Ticlopidine (Ticlid) then please contact the Booking and Scheduling Department on 0161 778 2288.

What is a trigeminal ganglion block?

It is an injection of local anaesthetic (medication that temporarily numbs the nerves) and/or Glycerol (medication that numbs the nerves more permanently) around the trigeminal ganglion.

Trigeminal ganglion is a collection of nerve cells from which the trigeminal ganglion nerve arises. Some sensations over the face and movement of the jaw/mouth are controlled by the trigeminal nerve.

Why is the injection done?

The injection is used to treat certain types of pain and/or muscle spasm in the face.

How is the injection done?

You will be asked to attend the Day Surgery Unit.

The injection is done with the help of an x-ray machine. You will be asked to lie on your back. A cannula (plastic tube) will be placed at the back of your hand.

The procedure is done under local anaesthesia (medication to numb the skin). In some circumstances sedation (medication to relax) and other medications such as pain killers can be given through the cannula.

The injection site just to the side of the mouth will be cleaned with antiseptic solution and numbed with local anaesthetic. Once the

area is numb, a needle is inserted through the skin and directed to reach the trigeminal ganglion with the help of the x-ray machine. After the injection of a special dye to confirm correct position of the needle, you will be asked to adopt a sitting posture for the local anaesthetic and glycerol injection.

What are the beneficial effects?

The injection helps to manage neuralgic pain (nerve pain) of the face.

The pain relief takes effect immediately in the majority of patients. However, in some patients it may take a few days to take effect.

In some groups of patients the injection may help by reducing the number of painkillers that are required to control the pain and by improving quality of life.

What are the immediate side effects?

Very rarely the local anaesthetic may enter the blood vessel that supplies the head and cause light headedness and blackout.

Long term consequences are negligible with prompt treatment. Other risks may include bleeding, difficulty in breathing or swallowing and injection into and damage to surrounding areas.

What are the late side effects?

Late side effects are rare. Swelling, bruising of the face and rarely a 'black eye' may occur. Ice packs applied to the face help to reduce the swelling.

Some patients may develop headache, temporary double vision, reduced ability to chew, feeling unwell for a few days and a long lasting numbness of the face. A cold sore on the site of the injection

is a rare side effect, which responds to medication (anti-viral ointment or oral medication).

Whilst most patients get pain relief, in rare instances there can be an aggravation of the current pain symptoms. Very rarely the injection cannot be done due to an inability to place the medication in the appropriate place, due to technical difficulties.

Advice/Precaution

- You will be required to stay in the hospital overnight
- A follow-up appointment will be arranged so that the doctor/nurse can review the effects of the injection
- If there are any concerns or queries please contact the pain clinic.

It is very important that you inform the doctor/secretary in the pain clinic, at least one week before the injection if:

- You are allergic to any medications
- You have an infection near the injection site
- You think you might be pregnant
- Caution should be exercised if you have had a recent heart attack or vaccination.

Contact Details:

Oldham

Day Surgery 0161 627 8212

Pain Secretary 0161 656 1211

Fairfield

Day Surgery 0161 778 2503

Pain Secretary 0161 778 3622

Rochdale

Day Surgery 01706 517132/517133

Pain Secretary 01706 517705

NMGH

Day Surgery 0161 720 2240

Pain Secretary 0161 720 2520

If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

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Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

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For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897

For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service

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