

North Georgia Pain Clinic

CONSENT FOR TREATMENT

Patient Printed Name _____ DOB: _____ Date: _____

Nerve blocks and trigger point injections are a time-tested modality for chronic pain management. Nerve blocks are relatively safe techniques that have been used over the past seventy plus (70+) years for surgical/obstetrical anesthesia and control of chronic pain. The medications used in these blocks will be a combination of Marcaine, Lidocaine (local anesthetics), sterile saline and a low dose steroid. If, you have an allergy to any of these medications, please notify the staff now.

The local anesthetics often numb the area as well as areas that are supplied by nerves near the injection site. Local anesthetics generally wear off within 24-hours after the injection.

Notify the physician and staff if you:

- Are diabetic
- on Coumadin or any blood thinning therapy
- Prone to fainting during minor medical procedures

Possible Consequences of Nerve Blocks

- Feeling of warmth, numbness/weakness in the body region which has been blocked.
- Stellate ganglion blocks, because they involve the face, may cause eyelid droop, hoarseness, or nasal stuffiness.
- Soreness in the area of the body where the needle was introduced.
- Anxiety about the procedure, which may cause dizziness, shaking, or sweating. Intense anxiety can cause fainting and may be avoided by relaxing.
- Even the low-dose steroids we use can affect the blood sugar level of patients with diabetes.
- Bleeding problems can occur with nerve blocks with patients on blood thinners.

All of these are temporary reactions and should resolve shortly after the block.

Infrequent Consequences of Nerve Blocks

- Disturbances in breathing, blood pressure, and state of awareness.
- Body rash, increased appetite, reddened face, possible sensitivity to medications
- Seizures
- Spinal headaches can occur occasionally after the procedure. This can resolve spontaneously or can be treated at the office.

These responses should be reported immediately; with appropriate treatment, they are not life-threatening.

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CONSENT FOR TREATMENT (CONTINUED)

Rare Consequences of Nerve Block

- Internal bleeding
- Isolated cases of infection/abscess formation have been reported
- Paralysis

Should any of the above occur you should go to the Emergency Room immediately and have their staff contact our office or our physician on call.

Please understand there is a difference between side effects and a true allergic reaction to medications. A true allergic reaction will occur almost immediately or shortly after exposure to the allergic substance (generally a medication). A true allergic reaction will cause your throat to swell to the point where breathing will become restricted and/or impossible and can be life threatening. Should this occur, please call 911 immediately and then notify our office. Side effects are generally NOT life threatening and can be treated conservatively or with medications.

I understand the PHYSICIAN, MEDICAL PERSONAL, and OTHER STAFF members of the North Georgia Pain Clinic will rely on statements made by the patient, the patient's medical history and other information in determining the course of treatment.

I understand the practice of medicine is NOT an exact science and that NO guarantees or assurances have been made to me concerning the results of treatment.

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have read this form or had the form read and/or explained to me.

Patient Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

DOB: _____

Date: _____