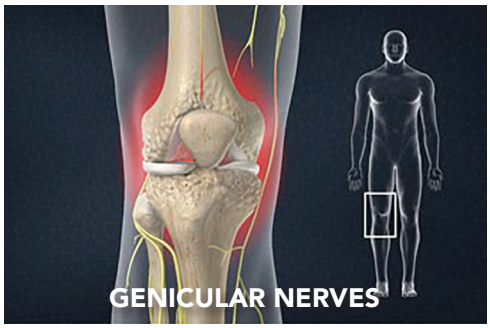
GENICULAR NERVE BLOCK (G BLOCK)

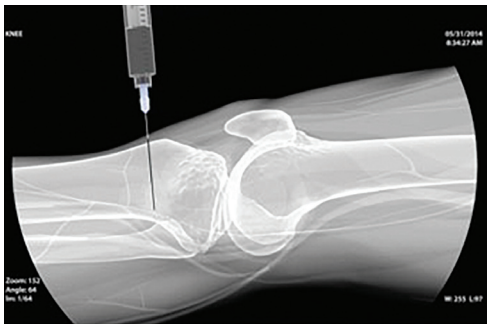
OVERVIEW

This outpatient procedure is an injection of anesthetic to the genicular nerves. These are the sensory nerves that transmit pain signals from the knee to the brain. Anesthetizing these nerves can disrupt the pain signals caused by degeneration or entrapment syndrome(s) of the knee. A genicular nerve block can provide temporary pain relief as well as identify the nerve that may be transmitting the pain signal. The block may help identify and determine if a patient is a candidate for nerve ablation and/or peripheral nerve stimulation, which has the ability to provide long-term pain relief.



THE PROCEDURE

In preparation for the procedure, the skin of the knee is cleansed and sanitized. The injection sites are numbed with a local anesthetic such as lidocaine or marcaine. Using imagine assistance such as fluoroscope or ultrasound technology, the physician is able to carefully guide a needle to the targeted nerves under direct visualization. An anesthetic agent is injected in an attempt to block the transmission of pain from the nerve. The physician may repeat with more additional injections at other targeted sites depending on the indications.



END OF PROCEDURE

When the procedure is complete, the injection sites are bandaged if needed. The patient is allowed to go home. The patient is expected to have minimal to no discomfort and should feel immediate pain relief if the pain transmission is adequately stopped.