OCCIPITAL/TRIGEMINAL NERVE BLOCK

Occipital Nerve Block

This is an injection of a small amount of cortisone and anesthetic into the back of the head. It is used in the diagnosis and treatment of occipital neuralgia (nerve pain), or tension headaches. This block can be given more than once if the patient is responding well to it. You will be in a sitting position for this procedure. The area to be injected will be cleansed and the doctor will inject medication at the site.

Trigeminal Nerve Block

This is an injection of a small amount of cortisone and anesthetic in the area of the chin. These nerves provide sensation to the region of the eye, forehead, upper and lower jaw. This block can be given more than once if the patient is responding well to it. You will be laying on your back for the procedure.

During the Procedure

An IV may be placed in your arm for the trigeminal procedure, and the area to be injected will be cleansed. For the trigeminal procedure, the doctor will locate the placement for the needle and inject the medication. After completion you will be monitored for a short period of time and then you will be discharged to go home. Before you leave the nurse will ask you about your pain relief. You should feel pain relief shortly after the injection.