



SPHENOPALATINE GANGLION BLOCK

Definition: A sphenopalatine ganglion block involves the placement of a local anesthetic through the nose or side of face to affect a nerve at the base of the nose. From this point, the medication will block the pain message and promote the healing process.

Reasons for Treatment: Considerable experience has shown that this treatment is effective in relieving pain. This type of block is quite frequently used for many causes of headaches and facial pains.

Procedure: The treatments are most generally given in a series, often done on a daily basis for 3 to 7 visits. The nurse will assist you in the proper position. Two cotton-tipped applicators (saturated in local anesthetic) will be inserted a few centimeters into each nostril. The process lasts only a few seconds. After the swabs are in place, the physician will instill a local anesthetic into your nostrils. After 15 minutes the swabs are removed. A needle will sometimes be placed under the X-ray as an alternative to anesthetic through the nose. If you receive intravenous anesthesia/sedation, the procedure should be relatively painless. Your pain relief will be monitored by nurses and physicians. You may experience watering of the eyes and/or slight numbness of the throat. Secondary to the numbness, there may be difficulty in swallowing for the next hour. The nurses will assist you in preparing to return home; we will answer any questions and you may make an appointment for your next visit. Our physicians are on call 24 hours a day. If you have a problem, please contact Headache & Pain Center.



**Headache &
PAIN CENTER**
amc

123 Frontage Road-A • Gray, LA 70359

985.580.1200 • 1.888.415.6363

531-A Jefferson Terrace • New Iberia, LA

337.560.0880 • 1.888.899.6363

www.answertopain.com