

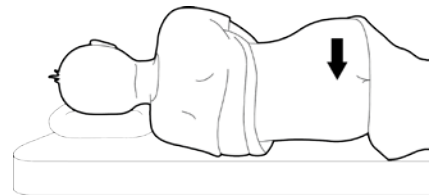
Caudal block

What is a caudal block?

- A caudal block is a way to lessen pain during and after surgery. It is safe and effective for children.
- A caudal block numbs the lower part of the body, below the belly button. This is called a regional anesthetic.
- A caudal block can provide pain relief in the area of the surgery for up to 8 hours.

How is a caudal block done?

- Before surgery, a doctor called an Anesthesiologist will give your child a general anesthetic which causes sleep.
- When your child is asleep, the Anesthesiologist uses a small needle to put a numbing medicine (local anesthetic) into your child's lower back. Your child will not feel this.
- The medication blocks the nerves that carry pain up the spinal column, so your child feels little or no pain.



This picture shows where the needle is placed

What are the benefits of a caudal block?

- A caudal block provides good pain relief.
- With a caudal block, your child may need less general anesthetic during the surgery and less pain medication after surgery. This may help your child wake up sooner and have fewer side effects such as nausea and vomiting.

Before surgery, the Anesthesiologist will discuss with you the benefits and risks of a caudal block, and decide if this is the best option for your child.

How will my child feel after a caudal block?

A caudal block can last for up to 8 hours. During this time, your child:

- Will be able to move his or her legs, but they may feel heavy, tingly or weak. Do not let your child crawl or walk alone.
- Will have less feeling in the areas below the belly button. Keep anything hot, cold or sharp away from your child.
- May not feel the urge to pass urine. When the nurse says your child can drink, give your child water and clear fluids.

As the caudal block wears off:

- The strength and feeling in your child's legs will return to normal.
- Your child should be able to pass urine.
- Your child may begin to have some discomfort from the surgery. Your surgeon may give you a prescription for pain medication to use at home, or you may give your child acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil® or Motrin®).

What side effects and risks are possible?

As with all medications, some side effects and risks are possible.

- Your child's legs may feel heavy, tingly or weak until the caudal block wears off.
- Your child may have difficulty passing urine. Rarely, a catheter is needed to empty the bladder.
- Headaches and serious reactions to anesthetic medication are rare.
- The risk of bleeding, infection or nerve damage is extremely low.

There is a slight chance that the caudal block does not work well as planned. If this happens, your child's pain will be relieved with other medications.

If you have any questions or concerns about the caudal block, please ask to speak with the Anesthesiologist.