

## Sphenopalatine Block

<b><i>What is it?</i></b>	A sphenopalatine block involves placing medication inside the nostrils to block the sympathetic ganglion (group of nerves) that are thought to be contributing to your pain.
<b><i>Why is it done?</i></b>	The purpose of this procedure is to treat facial pain, including atypical (unusual) facial pain, neuralgias (inflammation along the path of a nerve including the trigeminal nerve in the facial area) and TMJ (Inflammation of the temporomandibular joint in the upper jaw). The procedure may be repeated at two to three week intervals.
<b><i>How is it done?</i></b>	You will be placed on a stretcher face up. An intravenous (IV) catheter (tube) will be placed in your vein. An oxygen sensing probe will be placed on your finger, and you will be placed on a blood pressure monitor. Two or three cocaine swabs will then be inserted into one or both nostrils. Cocaine is used in this procedure because it is both an anesthetic (kills pain) and vasoconstrictor (narrows blood vessels). The swabs will be placed near the collection of nerves inside the membranes of the nose area. The swabs stay in place for 15 - 20 minutes, and are then removed. A second set of swabs are placed and left in for an additional 15 - 20 minutes and then removed.
<b><i>Is there any preparation?</i></b>	<b>DO NOT EAT OR DRINK</b> for <b>4</b> hours before your procedure.
<b><i>What to wear?</i></b>	Please wear loose, comfortable clothing. Please leave all jewelry and other valuables at home.
<b><i>How long does it take?</i></b>	We ask that you arrive 30-45 minutes before the scheduled time of your procedure. The procedure lasts about 30 to 45 minutes, and you will be in the recovery area about 30 to 45 minutes.
<b><i>Risks</i></b>	The risks of this procedure include , but are not limited to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Excessive absorption of cocaine may cause slight elevation of blood pressure and heart rate and a feeling of euphoria (exaggerated feeling of well being). These symptoms usually disappear without further treatment.</li> <li>* Nosebleed</li> <li>* Numbness over one or both sides of the face</li> <li>* Increased pain</li> <li>* Nerve damage, paralysis, stroke and even death.</li> </ul>