

Pediatric Regional Anesthesia

Pediatric regional anesthesia is a service aimed at providing your child with an additional source of long lasting pain relief that can also help to minimize potential side effects of oral or intravenous pain medication.

Using a technique that is similar to the injections that dentists often administer to “numb up” a whole section of teeth, we can also inject medication that can provide pain relief and “numb up” the area of your child’s operation.

The type of pediatric regional anesthesia offered depends on the location of your child’s surgery:

Caudal blockade - Similar to the pain relief that is provided to women who are having a baby, a caudal blockade is often chosen for patients who would benefit from pain relief after surgery. This includes patients having surgery in the range of the upper abdomen to the lower extremities. This procedure can offer pain relief that can last for up to 12 hours in duration.

Continuous epidural analgesia – For patients being admitted to the hospital and having surgery in the range of the upper chest or below, including the lower extremities, a continuous epidural is often selected. You may be familiar with this technique from its use for women who are having a baby. It provides numbing to the chosen area 24 hours a day, and can be used for many days in a row.

Peripheral nerve blocks – Patients who are having surgery on their arms or legs benefit the most from these techniques which can last from a matter of hours to days depending on the need.

Your anesthesiologist will be happy to answer any questions concerning the appropriateness of regional anesthesia for your child.