

Celiac Sympathetic Plexus Block (CSPB)

What is a celiac sympathetic plexus?

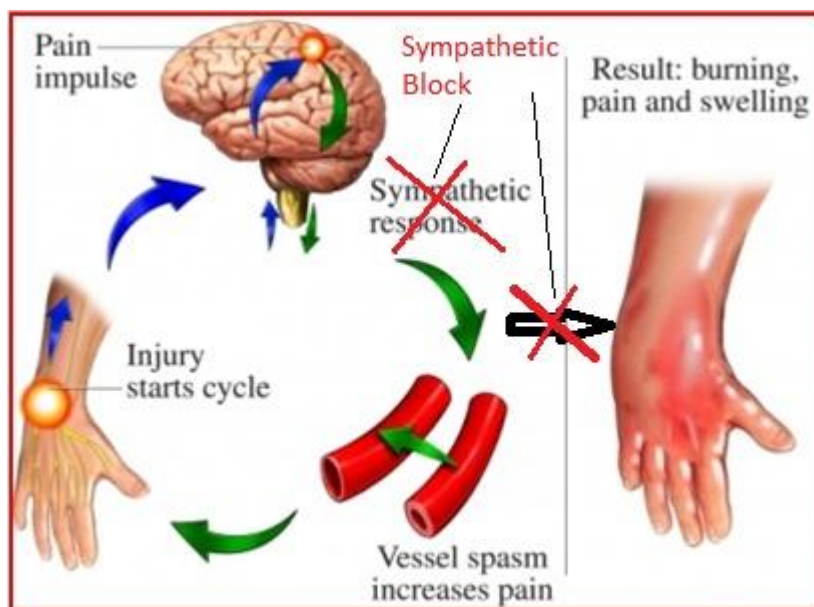
It is a complex network of nerves which controls the body's involuntary activities for the abdomen region. It has been implicated in neuropathic pain, vascular, and visceral pain. Celiac plexus is located anterior to T12-L1 vertebral body.

What are the indications of CSPB?

Among many indications the listed are the main indications: neuralgia, pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer, cancer abdominal pain, chronic abdominal pain.

How does CSPB bring pain relief?

The sympathetic nerve becomes hyperactivity due to chronic pain. With the CSPB is goal is to break the cycle of pain and decrease sympathetic outflow, and thus, allow more blood flow into the extremity. This helps to desensitize the nerve fibers, increase blood flow, increase healing (due to increased blood flow) and decrease pain.

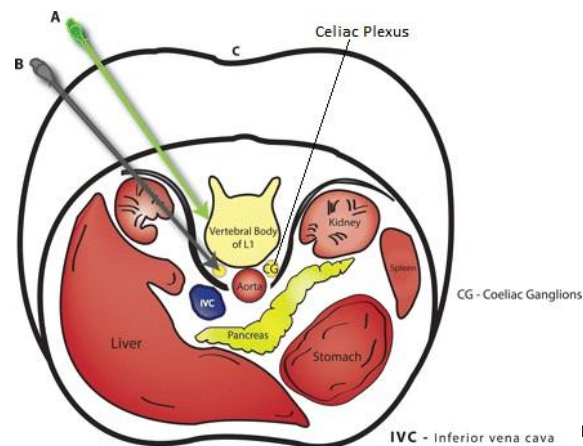


What are risks for the CSPB?

Among many, here are few listed: low blood pressure, diarrhea, back pain, abdominal pain, epidural spread of local anesthetic and pneumothorax.

How is the CSPB injection performed?

After sterile preparation of the back region, the injection site is localized under X-ray. Following the local anesthetic applied to the injection site, which can help decrease the injection site pain, the needle is guided toward the target site with the help of X-ray. After the target is localized, it can be further confirmed with liquid contrast, which can help further confirm the location of the celiac plexus. After the celiac plexus is confirmed, the local anesthetic medication is injected, and the needle is taken out at the end of the procedure.



What to expect after the CSPB procedure?

This is an **outpatient procedure**. Patients are monitored in the recovery room after the procedure. Patient should receive instant relief after the procedure in 10-20 minutes. Patients are discharged from the recovery room once they have the discharge criteria.

How long the relief from the CSPB would last for?

It varies from patient to patient. Usually, the pain relief can last for 2-4 weeks, and may require repeat the CSPB if necessary. The purpose is to desensitize the nerve fibers, decrease pain, increase blood circulation and increase healing.

Please tell your pain physician if you are taking any blood thinners. For example: Coumadin, Plavix, Heparin, Lovenox and etc. The blood thinners need to be stopped before the interventional procedure, and the time frame will be prescribed by your pain physician.