Complications of nerve blocks

Nerve blocks, like other medical procedures, are not risk-free. There is a possibility of side effects and complications from the procedure, needle puncture, and medications used.

The most critical factor in the efficacy of a nerve block is the proper location of the target nerve.

Complications include: Infection, allergy reactions and/increased pain.

Transient swelling of injection sites can occur

Septic arthritis can occur if aseptic techniques are not maintained

Periarticular cellulitis due to swelling of injection site that may spread to surrounding areas

Chemical synovitis, otherwise known as joint flare can occur as a result of the local anesthetics

Lack of effect- drugs that were injected at the inappropriate site, it would not work

Risks of further injury- inappropriate dosages of anesthetic can cause further lameness