**Drugs often used for nerve and joint blocks in Horses.**

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| Drug | Drug Information |
| Lidocaine Hydrochloride 2% | * Has an onset of action about 5 minutes, and duration of 30-45 minutes. Maximum effect is at approximately 15 minutes. * Can be used when different techniques of analgesia are used during the lameness examination. * May cause tissue reactions & irritation, especially in metacarpal area. |
| Mepivacaine (Carbocaine) 2% | * Longer lasting than Lidocaine. * This drug has a duration of 90–120 min, and a rapid onset of action of about 5 minutes or less. This makes this drug valuable for examining a horse with lameness in multiple limbs or if multiple sites of pain on a limb are suspected. * Causes less tissue irritation and vasodilation than Lidocaine. |
| Bupivacaine Hydrochloride | Has a slower onset of action (about 5-10 minutes but its effects last much longer, about 4-8 hours, and is done for major procedures, and not often used for lameness examination.  Reported to cause chondrocyte toxicity. |

**Contraindications**: Generally, local anaesthetics should not be used in patients with fractures, severe soft tissue damage or sudden onset of lameness where fracture/soft tissue injury has not been ruled out, as anaestehtic effects may cause the horse to bear weight on the limb, and exacerbate the already damaged area.

Lidocaine and Mepivacaine should be reduced for elderly and debilitated patients and patients with cardiac and/or liver disease, respiratory depression and shock.