

# Intravenous Regional Block



The intra-venous regional block is a technique used to achieve anesthesia of the foot . The technique requires the placement of a tourniquet in an area proximal to the surgical site to limit blood flow leaving the limb. 5-10cc of 10% lidocaine was infused into the vein ( either dorsal metacarpal vein or the palmar digital vein ) . The infused lidocaine will be trapped in the area distal to where the tourniquet is place and difuse out of the vein into the extracellular compartment to block branches of the medial dorsal and palmar axial digital nerve.

## **Pre-surgical considerations**

- Animal should be physically restrained in a stanchion bar or squeeze chute.
- Pre-anesthetic medication is indicated for this procedure. A mixture of xylazine 0.025 mg/kg and 0.05mg/kg ketamine IM was used.
- Adequetly cleanse the area proximal to the tourniquet to remove any dirt , mud or other foreign materials.
- A surgical assistant may be indicated to divert the animals attention during placement of the needle .
- Tourniquet should not be left on for greater than 90 minutes

## **Indications**

This technique may be used for but not limited to :

- Debridement of severe foot abscesses,
- interdigital fibroma removal ,
- wound repair
- digit amputation

## **Post surgical considerations**

- Remove tourniquet slowly to prevent a large bolus of lidocaine entering the systemic circulation and causing lidocaine toxicity .