

Mental Nerve Block

Nerve: The continuation of the inferior alveolar nerve, the mental nerve.

Location: The mental foramen is located ventral to the commissure of the lips on the lateral side of the mandible (paired). The mental nerve exits the mandible through the mental foramen.

To block: Move the depressor *labii inferioris* muscle dorsally which covers the foramen. Palpate and using a 1.5-in (3.8-cm) needle with a 15- to 20-degree bend direct it through the skin rostral to the foramen bury the needle if possible. Deposit 3 to 5 ml of anaesthetic agent. Note this nerve block may pose some difficulty because the mental foramen is difficult to palpate and insert the needle caudally, hence, it is not well tolerated by most horses. Moderate pressure while injecting the anaesthetic agent along with lack of blebbing at the injection site confirms proper needle placement.

Use: Indicated in the use for rostral mandible, canines, lower incisor and lower lip procedures but this block does not work well unless local anaesthetic is injected into the foramen. Do a bilateral nerve blocks when working on central incisors due to the crossover of innervation at the rostral portion of the premaxilla and mandible.



References

1. Equine Dental Local Anesthesia [Internet]. Academy Of Equine Dentistry Blog. 2010 [cited 28 October 2018]. Available from: <https://academyofequinedentistry.wordpress.com/2010/03/23/equine-dental-local-anesthesia/>

2. . A guide to regional analgesia of the head in equine patients [Internet]. dvm360.com. 2018 [cited 28 October 2018]. Available from: <http://veterinarynews.dvm360.com/guide-regional-analgesia-head-equine-patients?pageID=4>