**Contraindications**

* Nerve blocks should not be used in horses that show signs of severe lameness since there is a possibility of bone fracture. If a nerve block is then performed the horse can bear weight excessively on the limb causing a non-displaced fracture to worsen.
* Local anesthetic solution may diffuse from the deposition sit and desensitize adjacent structures.
* Anesthetic solution can irritate tissue (especially Lidocaine) and can cause low grade inflammation.
* There is always a risk of introducing bacteria and then infection.
* Responses may be inconsistent.
* Local anesthetics will cause systemic toxicity if excessive amounts are used or if absorption is too rapid.
* When using Lidocaine caution should be taken with pregnant animals or animals with cardiac or hepatic impairment.
* Mepivacaine should not be used in horses intended for human consumption.