CONTRAINDICATIONS OF BLOCKING

Absolute contraindications to the use of peripheral nerve blocks include allergy to local anesthetics, inability to cooperate, or patient refusal. It is advised to postpone or reconsider a nerve injection when there is an active infection at the site of the injection, pre-existing neural deficits along the distribution of the block, and in patients with coagulopathies or on antithrombotic drugs.

Complications of peripheral nerve blocks are fortunately rare, but injury can still occur.

• Needle Choice

Studies have shown that nerve fascicles easily slid or rolled away from the needle tip, especially when using short-bevelled needles. More injuries occurred with the long-bevelled needle which impaled the nerves.

• Pre-existing Conditions

Patients with underlying nerve pathology are more susceptible to peripheral nerve complications, including prolonged duration of block and increased neurotoxicity to local anaesthetic agents. This may be related to the increased sensitivity of already damaged nerves, such as in patients with diabetic neuropathy or those having been exposed to neurotoxic chemotherapy25 or to the disruption of neural blood supply.

• Infection can follow injecting proceedures if the injection site is not sterilized before and after injecting

• Accidental vascular puncture and haematoma formation can occur as peripheral nerves have a dual blood supply. Intrinsic exchange vessels in the endoneurium and an extrinsic plexus of vessels in the epineurial space that crosses the perineurium to anastomose with the intrinsic circulation.

<https://academic.oup.com/bja/article/105/suppl_1/i97/235950>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK459210/#:~:text=Absolute%20contraindications%20to%20the%20use,to%20cooperate%2C%20or%20patient%20refusal>.