

Proper skin preparation is crucial when performing analgesic blocks in the distal limb of horses. Follow these general steps for effective skin preparation:

### **1. Gather Necessary Supplies:**

- Antiseptic solution (e.g., chlorhexidine or povidone-iodine)
- Sterile gloves
- Clean towels or gauze
- Disposable drapes, if available
- Sterile needles and syringes for local anesthetic administration
- Isopropyl alcohol for skin cleaning, if needed

### **2. Wear Sterile Gloves:**

- Ensure that you are wearing sterile gloves to minimize the risk of introducing contaminants.

### **3. Clip the Hair:**

- Clip the hair around the intended injection site to create a clean, hair-free area. This enhances visibility and reduces the risk of contamination.

### **4. Clean the Skin:**

- Clean the skin thoroughly with an antiseptic solution. Start from the center of the intended injection site and work outward in a circular motion.
- If the skin is visibly dirty, you may use isopropyl alcohol first to remove any debris before applying the antiseptic solution.

### **5. Allow Drying Time:**

- Allow the antiseptic solution to air-dry or use sterile gauze to pat it dry gently. This helps ensure that the skin is adequately disinfected.

### **6. Maintain Sterility:**

- Be mindful of maintaining a sterile field throughout the procedure. Avoid touching the cleaned area with non-sterile objects or hands.

### **7. Use Disposable Drapes (Optional):**

- If available, use disposable drapes to create a sterile field around the injection site.

### **8. Administer Analgesic Block:**

- Proceed with the administration of the analgesic block using sterile needles and syringes. Ensure that the injection is done with precision, avoiding contamination of the injection site.

### **9. Monitor for Adverse Reactions:**

- After the block is administered, monitor the horse for any signs of adverse reactions or infection at the injection site.