

Blocks complications.

### **What is regional anesthesia?**

Regional anesthesia or “the nerve block” is a form of anesthesia in which only a part of the body is anesthetized (“made numb”).

### **What are the benefits of regional anesthesia?**

One of the primary benefits is the elimination of pain both intraoperatively as well as postoperatively. Postoperative pain control can be extended for many hours. As a result, opioids (morphine-like drugs) can be avoided thus avoiding their side effects such as nausea, vomiting, sedation and respiratory depression. The lack of pain and opioid-related side effects result in a shortened stay in the recovery room and reduces the risk of an unplanned admission to the hospital.

### **Complications of Regional Anesthesia**

While no technique is completely risk free, reported complications have been rare and it tends to be of a minor nature such as block failure, bleeding, infection and bruising.

Rare serious life threatening complications are possible with or without the block such as Central Nervous System Toxicity (seizures) or Cardiac Toxicity (malignant dysrhythmias, pulseless electrical activity or asystolia).