

Going the extra mile

PERFORMING PEDIATRIC ULTRASOUND-GUIDED NERVE BLOCKS

Acute injuries in children pose a unique set of circumstances for acute care providers. Beyond the dosing and medication adjustments, children have smaller targets, tend to be harder to coach and control, and their inherent communication limitation makes it hard to gauge success.

Advantages

That said, a well-executed ultrasound-guided nerve block in a child can save hours of toil and significantly ease the fears of the child and their often distraught parents.

Use child life specialists if you have them at your hospital. If not, implore your administration to

employ them if you see a reasonable amount of pediatric injuries. They can help defuse potentially difficult situations.

Ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia can decrease the amount of narcotic or sedative needed for a particular procedure.

Unique pediatric considerations

- **Emotions**—children will express emotion differently, even in the setting of a successful anesthetic block.
- **Bruises / hematomas**—children can get worried with the sight of blood or a bruise. Give them the education so they are prepared for it.
- **Pins and needles**—after the procedure is complete, the block may still be working. Let the patient and parents know a timeline on when they can expect it to wear off.



A femoral nerve block in a pediatric femur fracture works incredibly well!