**Proximal Paravertebral Anesthesia**

**Indications**

* To provide unilateral analgesia of the paralumbar fossa for flank laparotomy. An alternative to the inverted L block
* Preferable to a line block or an inverted L block in relation to both speed of application and safety.
* This block is more likely to provide uniform desensitisation of the peritoneum than is field infiltration, and also provides relaxation of the abdominal wall
* For caesarean section, this technique provides good muscle relaxation, does not risk development of haematomas at the operating site and provides for good healing

**Complications/ Limitations/ Risks**

Disadvantages over L-block or line infiltration:

* This technique is technically relatively difficult particularly in fat animals.
* It is difficult to identify the landmarks for injections in animals which are obese or very heavily muscled.
* Vasodilatation may increase haemorrhage; this is considered of minor importance
* Bowing of the flank may make closure of the laparotomy incision more difficult; this is considered of minor importance.
* There is a risk of penetrating the aorta or thoracic longitudinal vein on the left side of the spine or the posterior vena cava on the right side
* Caudal migration of the drug to the femoral nerve may occur with resultant loss of motor control to the hind limb

**General information**

Advantages over L-block or line infiltration:

* Wide uniform analgesia from the last rib to the tuber coxae and ventrally to the fold of the flank, through all layers of the abdominal wall
* Faster to carry out.
* Significantly smaller total volume of local anaesthetic solution is required.
* No haematoma formation at the proposed incision site.
* Produces relaxation of flank muscles and decrease in intra-abdominal pressure.
* Intraoperative increase in the length of the laparotomy incision can be performed if required.
* The peritoneum is desensitised and some abdominal viscera also

The detailed procedure is given in the Local Anesthesia document attached.