**DRUGS USED IN EQUINE NERVE BLOCKS**

1. anaesthetic agents are commonly used:
2. 2% mepivacaine hydrochloride
3. 2 % lidocaine
4. 0.5% bupivacaine (\*Bupivicaine has been reported to possibly cause chondrocyte toxicity).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Mepivacaine | Lidocaine | Bupivacaine |
| Onset | 1 – 5 minutes | 5 – 10 minutes | 5 – 10 mins |
| Duration of action | 90 – 120 mins | 30 – 45 mins | 4-6 hours |

Palmar\ plantar digital nerve block- Needle and anesthetic volume = 25 gauge, 5/8” (1.6 cm); 1.5 ml per site.

Pastern semi ring block- Needle and anesthetic volume = 22 gauge, 1” (2.5 cm); 1 ml per site.

Abaxial sesamoid nerve block- Needle and anesthetic volume = 25 gauge, 5/8” (1.6 cm); 1.5 ml per site.

Low palmar\ plantar nerve block- Needle and anesthetic volume = 25 gauge, 5/8” (1.6 cm); 3 ml per palmar nerve site, 1ml per palmar metacarpal nerve site.

High palmar nerve block- Needle and anesthetic volume = 25 gauge, 5/8” (1.6 cm); 3 ml per site.

Lateral palmar nerve block- Needle and anesthetic volume = 25 gauge, 5/8” (1.5 cm); 2 ml

High plantar nerve block- Needle and anesthetic volume: 25 gauge, 5/8” (1.5 cm) per plantar nerve site; 22 gauge, 1.5” (3.8 cm); 3 ml per site.

Deep branch of the lateral plantar nerve block- Needle and anesthetic volume: 22 gauge, 1” (2.5 cm); 5 ml.

\*Before performing any nerve block procedure, the veterinarian should always inform the owner/agent that local anaesthetics are considered forbidden substances in many competition horses.