

Tarsometatarsal (TMT) Joint

Quantity of Local Anesthetic: 4 to 6 mL

Needle Size: 1 to 1-1/2 inches, 20-gauge

Injection Technique:

- Lateral approach (Figure 3.89): The landmarks for injection are the proximal head of the fourth metatarsal (MTIV) bone and the lateral edge of the SDFT. A 1- to 1-1/2-inch, 20-gauge needle is inserted in the small palpable depression just proximal to the head of MTIV. The needle is directed toward the dorsomedial aspect of the tarsus in a slightly downward direction to a depth of 1/2 to 1 inch. The block is nearly always performed with the horse standing.

Pitfalls:

1. Placing the needle too distally and hitting the head of the lateral splint bone
2. Directing the needle too medial to lateral or caudal to cranial
3. Anesthetizing the lateral plantar nerve that innervates the proximal suspensory
4. Anesthesia of the proximal suspensory region due to distention of TMT joint pouches.