Preparation – infection is a catastrophic potential complication

• Clip and clean with surgical scrub for at least 5 minutes, then rinse with surgical spirit

• Sterile gloves must be worn and a new bottle of local anaesthetic, needle and syringe used

• Local anaesthetic agent is drawn up using aseptic technique

• Post injection bandaging for 24 hours post injection may be warranted to prevent surface contamination and reduce

swelling

Assessment

• Wait 5min before assessment (longer for large synovial cavities)

• 50% improvement in lameness probably indicates a single source of pain; less improvement with severe lameness and

local infection, or if there is an additional source of pain

• It is not always possible to retrieve synovial fluid but intra-synovial injection may be confirmed by: (1) ease of injection (may

become progressively more difficult); and by (2) the resulting distension of the synovial structure (localised fluid-filled

swelling)

• Desensitisation lasts for at least 90min