

Abaxial Sesamoid Block (Figure 3.62)

Quantity of Local Anesthetic: 1.5 to 2 mL

Needle Size: 5/8 inch, 25 gauge

Injection Technique: With the limb elevated by holding the fetlock in the palm of the hand, the palmar nerve is isolated by rolling it away from the artery and vein with the thumb or forefinger. A 5/8-inch, 25-gauge needle is used to inject 2 mL of anesthetic perineurally. It is best to use a small volume of anesthetic and direct the needle distally to avoid partial desensitization of the fetlock joint. The biaxial block desensitizes the foot, middle phalanx, PIP joint, distopalmar aspects of the proximal phalanx, distal portions of the SDFT and DDFT, distal sesamoidean ligaments, and the digital annular ligament.

Pitfalls:

1. Using too much anesthetic—diffusion can desensitize the fetlock joint or the sesamoid bones
2. May not completely desensitize the skin over the dorsal aspect of the pastern region