High Plantar Nerve Block (High 6-Point Nerve Block)

This nerve block is equivalent to the palmar digital nerve block in the forelimb. It is done when the low 6-point block fails to improve lameness.

Nerves:

1. Medial and lateral plantar nerves
2. Medial and lateral plantar metatarsal nerves
3. Medial and lateral dorsal branches of the Plantar digital nerve

Location:

1. Medial and lateral plantar nerves lie between the suspensory ligament and the deep digital flexor tendon.
2. Medial and lateral plantar metatarsal nerves: distal to the button of the splint bones of MC2 and MC4 and the canon bone (MC3)
3. Medial and lateral dorsal metatarsal nerve:
   * 1. Medial DM: lies adjacent to the long digital extensor tendon.
     2. Lateral DM : courses distally in the metatarsal region close to the splint bone and deviates dorsally in the region of the fetlock.

Technique:

This block is similar to the High 4-point nerve block; however, 2 additional nerves are blocked, the medial and lateral dorsal metatarsal nerves.

The medial and lateral plantar nerves are anaesthetized by depositing 3-5 ml of local anaesthetic solution using a 25 gauge, 5/8-inch needle inserted through heavy fascia to each plantar nerve.

To anaesthetize the plantar metatarsal nerves. A 20- to 22- gauge, 1.5-inch needle is inserted about 1 cm distal to the tarsometatarsal joint and axial to the second and fourth metatarsal bone until contact is made with the third metatarsal bone. 3-5 ml of local anaesthetic solution is deposited in this area.

2 ml of local anaesthetic solution is deposited subcutaneously using a 25-gauge, 5/8-inch needle, in the dorsolateral and dorsomedial aspect of the metatarsus, to anaesthetize the medial and lateral plantar metatarsal nerves.

Region desensitized:

All but the proximodorsal aspect of the limb distal to the tarsometatarsal joint is desensitized.