The high palmar nerve block (High 4-point Nerve Block) is done next when the Low Palmar Nerve block fails to improve lameness.

Nerves:

1. The medial and lateral palmar nerves

2. The medial and lateral palmar metacarpal nerves

Location of Nerves:

1. The medial and lateral palmar nerves lies between the suspensory ligament and the deep digital flexor tendon.

2. The medial and lateral palmar metacarpal nerves lies between the palmar surface of the canon bone (MC 3) and the axial surface of the splint bones (MC2 and MC4) where they terminate proximally.

Technique:

To anaesthetize the medial and lateral palmar nerves, the horse is usually bearing weight on the limb. A 25-gauge, 5/8-inch needle is inserted through the fascia where the nerve lies adjacent to the dorsal surface of the deep digital flexor tendon and 3 - 5 ml of anaesthetic is deposited.

The medial and lateral metacarpal nerves are usually anaesthetized slightly below the carpometacarpal joint with the limb usually being held. At each site, a 20 to 22 - gauge, 1.5-inch needle is used to insert 3 - 5 ml of anaesthetic between the palmar surface of the canon bone and the axial surface of the MC2 or MC4.

Region Desensitized:

Medial and lateral palmar nerves alone: flexor tendons and inferior check ligament.

Medial and lateral palmar metacarpal nerves alone: splint bones and their interosseous ligaments and proximal aspect of suspensory ligaments.

SUCCESS:

Anaesthesia of the skin over the palmar aspect of the metacarpus.