

# Penile Nerve Block

## What is a penile nerve block?

After your child is anaesthetised (asleep), a needle is used to administer numbing medicine (local anaesthetic) at the base of the penis, effectively sending the nerves that detect pain during surgery to sleep. This nerve block lasts for 4-8 hours on average but sometimes longer.

**Townsville  
Hospital  
and Health  
Service**

## Why should I choose a penile nerve block for my child?

- It provides very good pain relief for 4-8 hours. This means your child will need less anaesthesia and fewer strong painkillers, which can have harmful side effects. This generally leads to a faster recovery from surgery.

## What should I expect?

- **Bruising:** The skin at the base of the penis may have a temporary bruise.
- **Numbness:** Your child may feel numb or tingly on the surface of the skin of the genital region until the block wears off. This can last up to 4-8 hours.
- **Disinfectant:** The skin where the needle was inserted may be discoloured by the cleaning solution used. This will wash away with your child's next bath or shower.

## Are there risks?

Injury to a blood vessel or nerve supplying the penis is extremely rare. This nerve block is routinely administered to children and adults having an operation on their penis.

## How should I care for my child afterwards?

- As the nerve block starts to wear off, your child can take other pain relief.

## If any of the following occur, please see a doctor (your GP or your local emergency department):

- If your child has not passed urine by 8 hours after the operation.
- If your child has redness, swelling, pain, bleeding or ooze from the area that the nerve block was given.
- Alternatively, if you have any questions, you can contact the Acute Pain Management Team: 07 4433 3572.