

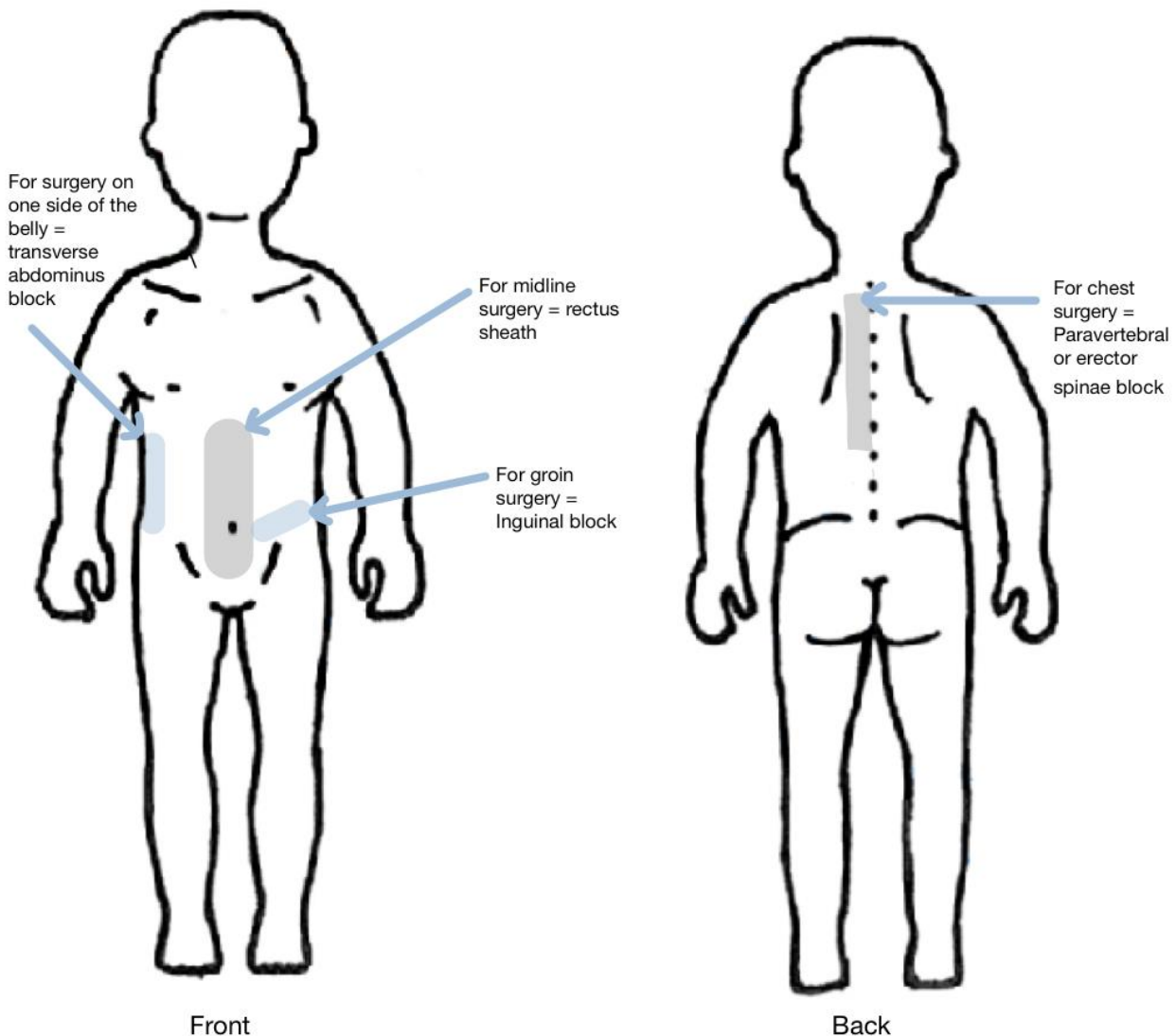
Chest or Abdomen Nerve Block

What is a chest or abdomen nerve block?

After your child is anaesthetised (asleep), a needle is used to place numbing medicine (local anaesthetic) near the nerves that detect pain from your child's surgery. The nerve block lasts for 6-10 hours. The site of nerve block will depend on your child's surgery and the anaesthetic doctor will tell you where this is.

Why should I choose a nerve block for my child?

This nerve block provides very good pain relief for up to 6-10 hours. So, your child will feel less pain when they move and breathe. This means they should need less strong painkillers helping your child to make a faster recovery.



Are there any risks?

Injury to a nerve or blood vessel is very unusual. Rarely, children who have a chest block may get a small hole in their lung, or, experience temporary leg weakness but neither of these should cause permanent injury.

How should I care for my child afterwards?

- As the block starts to wear off, your child can take other pain relief.
- If your child finds coughing or taking deep breaths very sore, this is a sign they need more pain relief.

What should I expect?

- **Numbness:** your child should feel numb or tingly over the operation area and surrounding skin.
- **Unable to feel hot, cold or sharp:** Watch your child near hot, very cold or sharp items until the block has worn off.
- **Disinfectant:** Skin where the needle was placed may be discoloured by the cleaning solution used. This will wash away with your child's next bath or shower.
- **Block catheter:** sometimes a tiny plastic tube (catheter) is placed to allow more medicine to be given once the first dose wears off. If this is placed it is secured with tape then connected to a pump that gives medicine every few hours.

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

- If your child has redness, swelling, pain, bleeding or ooze from the area that the nerve block was given.
- If your child develops new leg weakness within 2 weeks of the block.
- If your child seems 'short winded' or 'short of breath' within 2 weeks of the block.
- Alternatively, if you have any queries or concerns, you may contact the Acute Pain Management Team: 07 4433 3572.