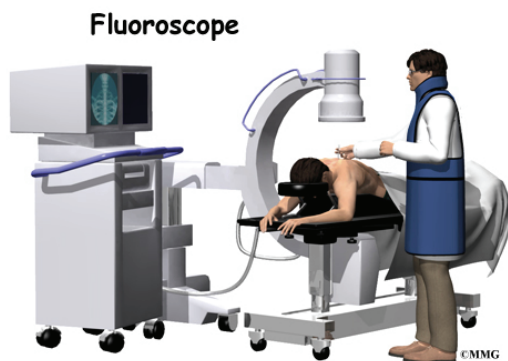


## What is a genicular nerve block?

A genicular nerve block is a diagnostic procedure where a local anesthetic is injected to block the nerves that transmit pain from the knee. This is the first step in a 2-step process to see if a radiofrequency ablation (RFA) would be beneficial to the patient.

The procedure is done under x-ray guidance (fluoroscopy) to ensure that the needle is in the correct place. Once needle placement is verified, the local anesthetic is injected.



**Trinity Health System**  
Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

**Dr. Suresh Srinivasan**  
3150 Johnson Road, 2nd Floor  
Steubenville, OH 43952

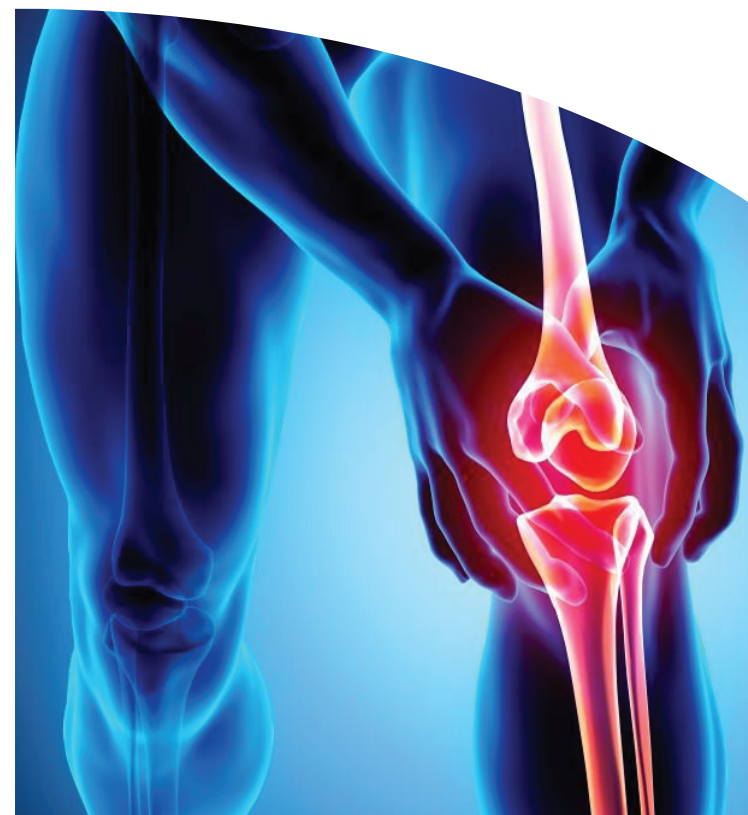
4100 Johnson Road  
Steubenville, OH 43952

trinityhealth.com  
740.314.5138

 **Trinity Health System**

# Genicular Nerve Block

 **Trinity Health System**  
Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

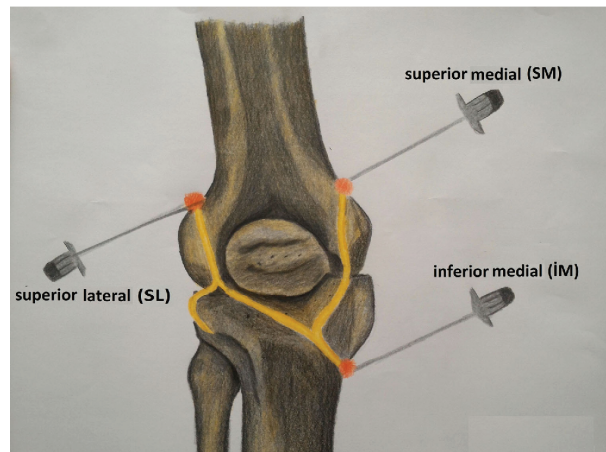


## Why am I getting a genicular nerve block?

A genicular nerve block is a diagnostic procedure to see if pain in the knee is resolved with a local anesthetic. The procedure is considered successful if the patient sees >50% pain relief with functional improvement for several hours. If the procedure is successful then another procedure, called a radiofrequency ablation (RFA), would be beneficial.

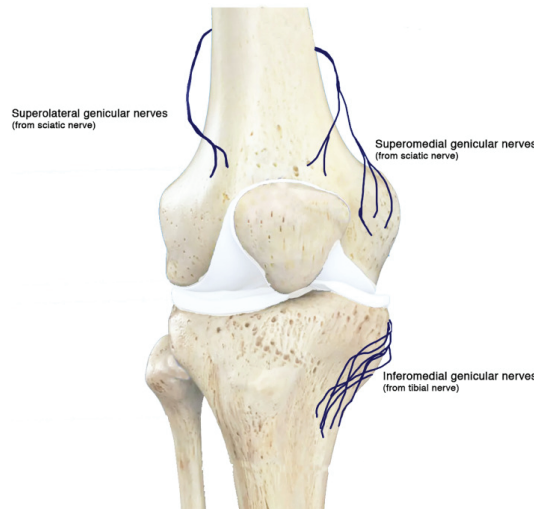
### Indications for genicular nerve blocks are:

- Chronic knee pain secondary to arthritis
- Failed knee replacement
- Unfit for knee replacement
- Avoidance of surgery



## Anatomy

The genicular nerves are located on both the medial and lateral leg. The lateral nerves sit above the knee joint while the medial nerves are above and below the knee joint.



## Expectations

The relief given by local anesthetics will wear off in several hours after the procedure and pain will return. Call the office 24-48 hours after your procedure to inform them of your pain relief. If you experienced >50% pain relief with functional improvement you will be a candidate for the RFA procedure.

## Complications

As with any procedure, complications can occur, although they are rare. Of these complications, the most common would be a temporary increase of pain near the injection site. If this occurs, apply ice to the area on the day of the procedure. If the pain persists, apply moist heat to the area. Another complication that can occur but that is rare is a headache.

Serious complications are very uncommon but may include bleeding, infection, or nerve damage. If pain continues to increase, contact your doctor. If you experience severe pain, fever, redness, or swelling around the injection site, have someone take you to the nearest emergency room to be evaluated for possible procedure complications or infection.