

What is a caudal block?

A caudal block is given in the operating room (OR). It is a way to give pain medicine to your child after they are asleep.

- It decreases feeling and movement below the injection (shot) site.
 - Caudal blocks are most often used to decrease feeling for patients who have surgery below the waist.
 - It is like the pain medicine that is often given to mothers in labor.
- An anesthesiologist (the doctor who helps your child go to sleep for their surgery) will inject the pain medicine in the lower part of your child's back.

What medicines are used for caudal pain control?

Medicines, such as local anesthetics or narcotics, are used.

- The caudal block most often relieves pain for 4 to 6 hours.
- Your child may need other pain medicines too.
- Your child's legs may be numb for about 4 to 6 hours. Your child may feel tingling or itching as the feeling returns to their legs.

Are there any risks?

Your child's doctor will talk with you about the risks and side effects. Some common risks and side effects include:

- Decreased feeling below the injection site.
- Legs may feel wobbly for a few hours.

How do I care for my child at home?

- Do not allow your child to walk or crawl without help for at least 4 hours after the caudal block. Their legs may be numb and wobbly, which could cause your child to fall.
- Keep your child's legs away from cold and hot objects. Your child may not be able to feel them so they could cause frostbite or burns.
- Follow any other directions or treatments as advised by your child's surgeon or doctor.

When should I call the doctor?

Call your child's surgeon **right away** if your child has not urinated within 6 hours of leaving the hospital.

Also call if you have any questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.