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## 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 he is asleep.

- It decreases feeling and movement below the injection area.
  - 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 his 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 along with the caudal block.
- Your child's legs may be numb for about 4 to 6 hours. As the feeling returns to your child's legs, he may have a feeling of tingling or itching.

## Are there any risks?

Your child's doctor will talk with you about the risks and side effects involved with a caudal block.

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. His legs may be numb and wobbly, which could cause him to fall.
- Keep your child's legs away from objects that are cold or hot. He may not be able to feel them, and they may 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.**