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## Supraclavicular Nerve Block



## Anatomy

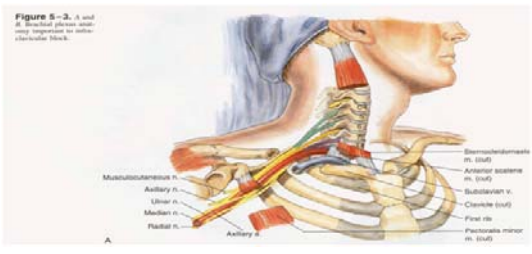


Figure 5-3. A and B. Brachial plexus and its related vessels are easily palpable for infraclavicular block.

## Anatomy

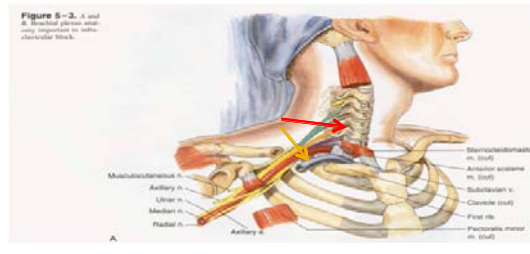
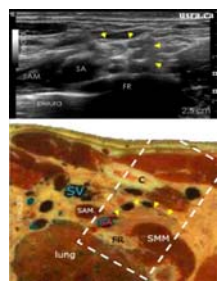


Figure 5-3. A and B. Brachial plexus and its related vessels are easily palpable for infraclavicular block.

## Supraclavicular Nerve Block

- DO THIS WITH AN ULTRASOUND
- Blocks plexus at the divisions
- Hits arms more distally than interscalene
- Here, brachial plexus is LATERAL to the subclavian
- Bad Stuff: Big veins, and lung!



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## Supraclavicular

- Here, trunks and divisions of the nerve travel closely, and blocking here results in a quick, reliable block.
- Blockade results in anesthesia to the arm below the shoulder
- Does not hit intercostobrachial nerve (upper medial arm)

## Supraclavicular

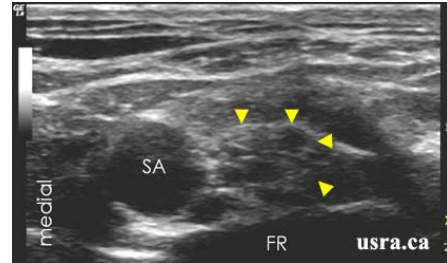
- Position: Supine, Head of bed 30 degrees
- Probe placement: above clavicle, almost looking behind it
  - Depth 2-3cm usually
  - Best view is with easily visible first rib
    - Hard white line below subclavian artery
- Needle placement: Lateral to medial
  - With good visualization → advance

## Supraclavicular Nerve Block Approach

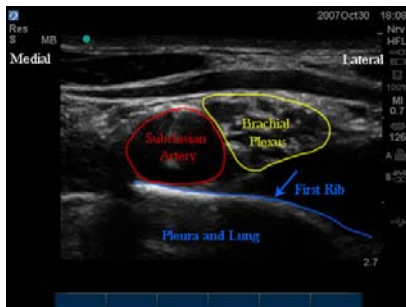


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## US View



## Supraclavicular Nerve Block Images and Anatomy



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## Where to hit it?

- Not in the lung
- Not in the nerve
- Around it
- No perfect spot
- Can spare ulnar nerve if injection is too superficial or lateral



## Potential complications

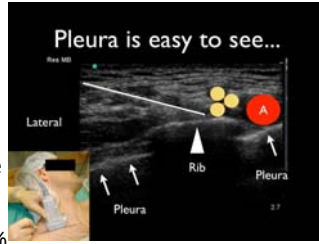
- Pneumothorax
- If performed incorrectly: Ulnar sparing
- Picking the wrong block (not for shoulder surgery)
- Phrenic paralysis (around 50%)

## Tips for Success

- Watch your plane- aim down, not across
- If you are lost, go back to interscalene
- Make the anatomy work for you
- You can sometimes abduct the arm to help
- Pleura is shiny and moves

## Three Pearls: Supraclavicular

- Maintain needle view at all times, PTX still happens with Ultrasound!
- Too superficial or lateral block placement may spare ulnar nerve
- Phrenic blockade 50%



[http://med.dartmouth-hitchcock.org/images/supraclavic\\_fg\\_u\\_full.jpg](http://med.dartmouth-hitchcock.org/images/supraclavic_fg_u_full.jpg)