

DIAGNOSTIC GENICULAR NERVE BLOCK

This procedure consists of placing a small amount of a local anesthetic, on the genicular nerves. This tests the patient's response and determines if there is sufficient pain relief in the knee to justify performing a therapeutic radiofrequency ablation.

GENICULAR NERVE ABLATION

During this therapeutic portion of treatment, your pain management physician will perform a radiofrequency ablation (RFA) of the genicular nerves, restoring function of the knee and alleviating pain.

HOW THIS CAN HELP IF YOU ARE HAVING A KNEE REPLACEMENT

For those patients where a knee replacement is the only option, genicular nerve neurotomy can offer a number of benefits in the postoperative phase. By performing this procedure preoperatively, there is a decrease in postoperative pain, allowing the patient to begin physical therapy earlier. Thus, improving knee strength and leading to shorter hospital stay. Decrease postoperative pain has also been linked to decreased morbidity in the postoperative phase. For many patients who have to wait several months for surgery, genicular nerve neurotomy can significantly reduce their pain making the waiting period more tolerable. After the procedure, the degree of pain relief can vary, depending on the cause and location of the pain. In most cases, pain relief from the procedure can last from 6 to 12 months; in other cases, relief can last for years. During the pain relief period, patients are typically able to participate in physical therapy and improve their overall activity level.

