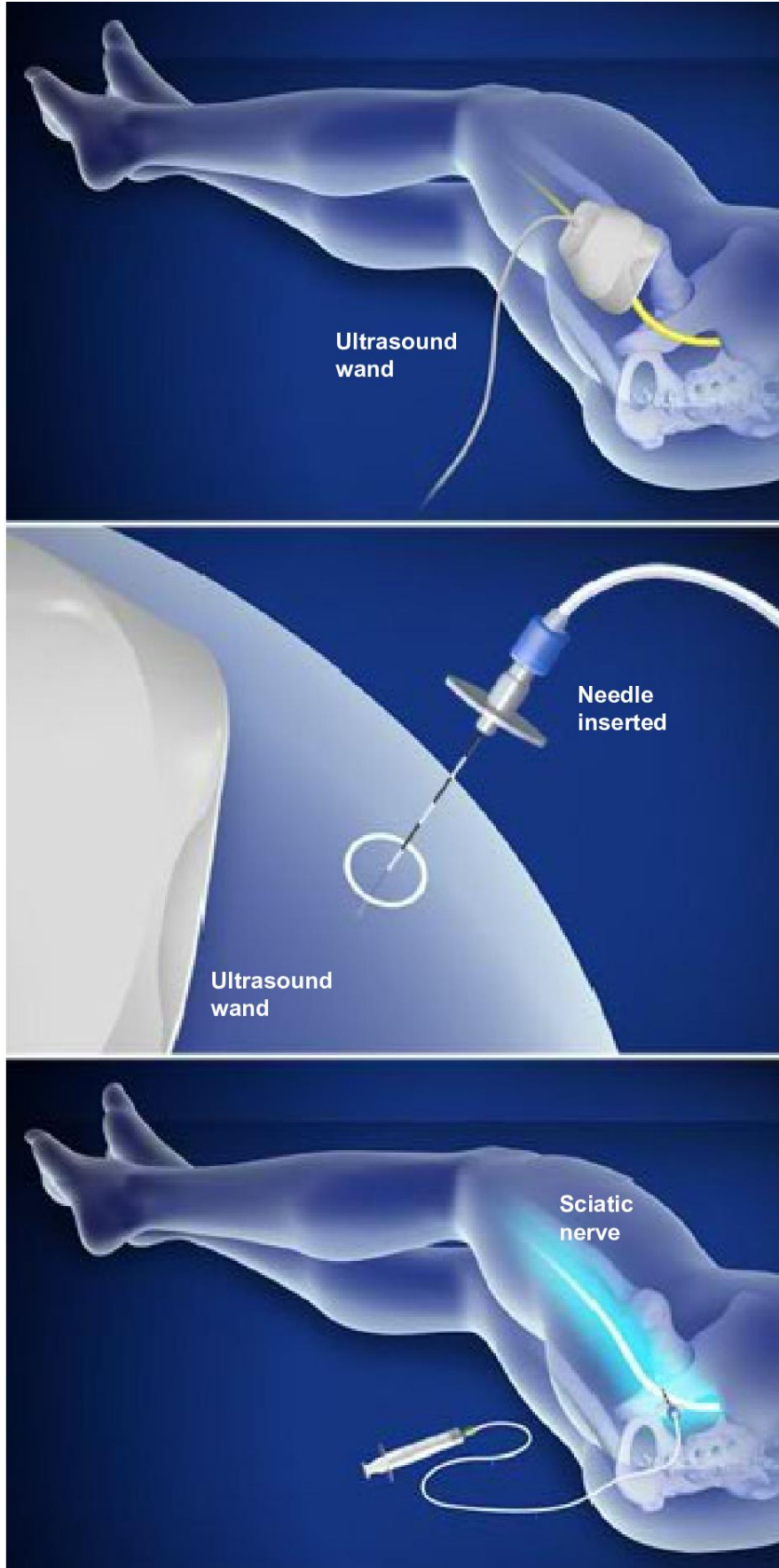




Sciatic Nerve Block (Posterior Approach, Ultrasound-guided)



Overview

This procedure is an injection of anesthesia (or an anesthetic/steroid mixture) around the sciatic nerve. It can be used to block the pain of surgery on the knee, leg ankle or foot, or it can be used to manage the pain of chronic issues in the lower extremity.

Preparation

In preparation for the procedure, the patient is positioned to expose the buttock. The physician uses an ultrasound probe to determine the precise entry point for the needle. The tissue at the entry point is numbed with an injection of local anesthesia.

Needle Placement

The physician inserts a needle into the numbed tissue and carefully advances it down to the sciatic nerve. The physician uses the ultrasound to confirm the correct placement of the needle.

Injection

The physician injects the anesthetic (or anesthetic/steroid mixture) through the needle. The medication bathes the main trunk of the sciatic nerve, temporarily blocking sensation in the leg or relieving chronic pain and inflammation.

End of Procedure

When the injection is complete, the needle is carefully removed and a small bandage is placed over the injection site. The duration of the injection varies depending on the type of medication administered and the goal of the procedure.