Stellate Ganglion Block

What is a Stellate Ganglion Block?
A Stellate Ganglion Block is an injection of local anesthetic in the sympathetic nerve tissue of the neck. This injection is used to treat chronic pain in the arms and sometimes the face due to RSD, Complex regional pain syndrome, and shingles.

What can you expect during your visit?
The procedure is primarily done in a facility setting under conscious sedation. You will check into the facility an hour and a half in advance. You will be asked to fast for 6 hours prior to your procedure. You will be brought back and prepped by a nurse on staff. They will insert the IV for the conscious sedation. Once in the procedure room you will be placed in supine position and a fluoroscopy guidance machine will be brought into position. Your doctor will inject the local anesthetic into the sympathetic nerve tissue of the neck. You will be monitored for about 30 minutes after the procedure.

What happens after the injection?
You will be asked not to drive for at least 24 hours after the procedure and you must have a driver drive you home from our office. You may experience pain and some soreness in the injection site lasting a day or two.

How long will the pain relief last?
The duration of the pain relief will vary per person but can last from a matter of days to a matter of weeks or months. The anesthetic should give you immediate relief but multiple injections may be needed to manage the pain.

Is there anything specific I need to tell my doctor prior to this procedure?
You should tell your doctor if you are pregnant, on blood thinners, diabetic, or if you have any other concerns you would like to address beforehand.

The above information is for general education purposes only. Please ask your doctor specific questions during your visit.