

## Subsartorial Block

The saphenous nerve accompanies the femoral artery in the subsartorial canal in the thigh. The artery courses deeper in the distal thigh to pass through the adductor muscles while the saphenous nerve passes superficially just above the knee joint to join the saphenous vein. The nerve may be readily blocked in the mid to lower thigh in the subsartorial plane. The more proximal block is likely to involve the nerve to vastus medialis leading to thigh weakness.

The subsartorial plane is readily found in the medial thigh by identifying the femoral artery and sartorius muscle overlying. More distally only the muscle belly is seen.

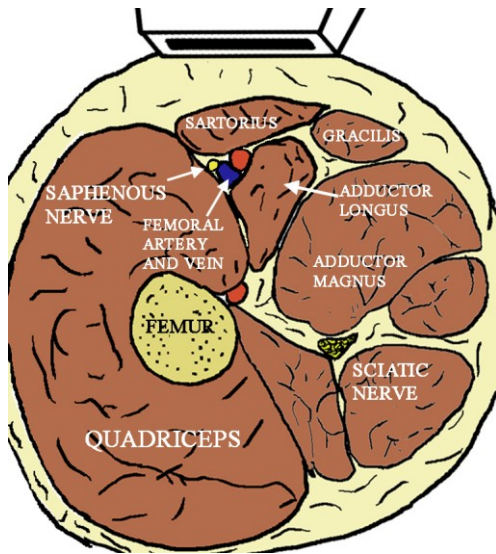


Fig 3.38 Thigh externally rotated, orientated for subsartorial block.

The nerve is not well seen however a nerve stimulator set at a pulse duration of 1 msec and current of 1.5 mA will elicit a sensory change on the medial leg. The nerve lies in the plane immediately deep to sartorius

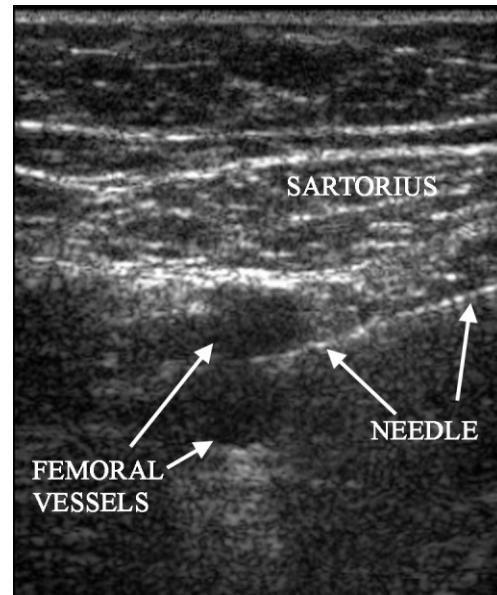


Fig 3.39 Sonogram of proximal subsartorial block, in plane approach.



Fig 3.40 Needle and probe position for subsartorial block in the distal thigh. In plane perpendicular approach.

The position is suitable for an in plane perpendicular approach to place a 100mm needle in the plane or a 50mm needle from closer to the probe. More distally in the thigh the femoral vessels are not seen as they pass deep through the adductor muscles while the saphenous nerve continues beneath sartorius. It may also be blocked at this level.

## **Ultrasound Guided Procedures in Anaesthesia**

Hebbard, Barrington & Royse  
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In describing this ultrasound guided procedure it has been assumed that attention has been paid to appropriate location, personnel, sterility, preparation, doses and technique necessary for the safe conduct of major nerve blocks and other procedures. These medical procedures should not be attempted without suitable qualifications

### **Acknowledgements**

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