**REGIONAL ANAESTHESIA**

Intravenous regional anesthesia (Bier block) of the foot is regularly performed and is often the favored technique for surgery of the foot. A tourniquet is placed proximal to the fetlock just before injection of local anesthetic when the vein is maximally distended. In the thoracic limb, intravenous regional analgesia can be performed using the dorsal metacarpal vein, the plantar metacarpal vein, and the radial vein (Figure 7.14). In the pelvic limb, the lateral saphenous vein or lateral plantar digital vein may be used for injection. Approximately 20 ml of local anesthetic is injected intravenously as close to the surgical site as possible using a 20-gauge, 3.3-cm needle or 21-gauge butterfly catheter. It is only necessary to administer anesthetic into one vein to provide anesthesia to the entire area distal to the tourniquet. The tourniquet can be safely left on for up to 1 hour to provide hemostasis during surgical procedures of the foot. Anesthesia of the foot occurs within 5–10 minutes. Once the surgical procedure is complete, the tourniquet is released.

It is difficult to use the dorsal digital vein or the palmar (plantar) digital veins in small ruminants as commonly as in large ruminants. However, some have found the Bier block easier in small ruminants when the tourniquet was placed either above the elbow in the forelimb or below the tarsus in the hind limb. This allows the use of the larger cephalic and recurrent tarsal veins, respectively. Using 3–4 ml of 2% lidocaine hydrochloride in small goats usually results in limb anesthesia for as long as the tourniquet is in place.