**EPIDURAL BLOCK ( SACRO-COCCYGEAL SPACE)**

Caudal epidural anesthesia is an easy and inexpensive method of analgesia that is commonly used in cattle and other ruminants for obstetrical manipulations or replacement of prolapses. A high caudal epidural at the sacrococcygeal space (S5–Co1) desensitizes sacral nerves S2, S3, S4, and S5.

If possible, the hair should be clipped and the skin scrubbed and disinfected. Standing alongside the cow, the tail should be moved up and down to locate the fossa between the last sacral vertebra and the first coccygeal vertebra (first freely moveable space) or between the first and second coccygeal vertebrae.

An 18-gauge, 3.8-cm needle (with no syringe attached) is directed perpendicular to the skin surface. Once the skin is penetrated, place a drop of local anesthetic solution in the hub of the needle (hanging drop technique). The needle should then be advanced slowly until the anesthetic solution is drawn into the epidural space by negative pressure. The syringe may then be attached to the needle, and the anesthetic solution slowly injected with no resistance.

**Advantages**

1. Cheap.   
2. Easy to perform.   
3. Minimal organ depression.   
4. Does not require equipment.   
  
  
**Disadvantages**  
  
1. Hypotension in some patients.   
2. Patient is awake and must be restrained/sedated.  
3. Lack of asepsis may result in meningitis.