***Palmar Digital Neurectomy:***

***Pre-operative considerations: Anaesthesia and Surgical Preparation***

Optimally, the standing neurectomy should be performed on a concrete slab in a dust-free environment. Surgery can be performed with the horse restrained in a stocks or held by an assistant. The horse is groomed to remove loose hair and dander and the feet are picked and cleaned with a wire brush. Blocking the foot prior to clipping the hair facilitates clipping as the horse is not as sensitive to the vibration generated by the clippers. The feet to be denerved are clipped circumferentially from the coronary band to the level of the fetlock joint with a #40 clipper blade. The entire circumferential distal limb extending from the hoof wall to fetlock joint is prepared for aseptic surgery using standard techniques.

Regional anesthesia of the foot is provided by blocking the palmar digital nerves at the abaxial level of the proximal sesamoid bones. Depending on the temperament of the horse, mild sedation may be necessary. 3 mg detomidine can be administered intravenously immediately prior to surgery. It is important to not over-sedate the patient as it will be difficult to pick up the leg to be operated. A second assistant is required to lift the limb to be operated off the ground. The limb is held by the assistant around the cannon bone, with the cannon bone parallel to the ground surface, and the foot is allowed to fall forward to its normal extended position.