

# The Vazirani-Akinosi nerve block to the rescue: a commonly underutilized nerve block

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## ABSTRACT

Achieving adequate dental anesthesia is a prime necessity in our patients. However, especially in the presence of an infection, the local anesthesia given may be unsuccessful. Most patients with acute infections also present with trismus and due to limitations in a patient's maximal incisal opening (MIO) attempting an intraoral block may not be feasible. Although commonly taught in dental curriculums across the world, the Vazirani-Akinosi (VA) nerve block is commonly underutilized even in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery training programs. Without question, a VA nerve block can be an effective technique in providing profound local anesthesia in cases that are not commonly successful with routine dental anesthesia techniques. The purpose is not to provide a history lesson on the VA block as it commonly described already in the literature.<sup>1-4</sup> The aim of our study was to provide a sense of how useful the VA block can be and encourage clinicians to utilize this technique more frequently in lieu of aborting procedures prematurely.

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