

CT Scan Facet Joint Injection Patient Information



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RADIOLOGY

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CT Scan Facet Joint Injections

A CT (Computed Tomography) scan stands for computer generated images of the xray slices through your body. CT scans are fantastic for imaging the spinal column and the joints associated with it. Your doctor may refer you for a facet joint injection into the spine, which is performed under CT guidance for accurate placement. The Radiologist is able to view the placement the needle in real time to ensure that we are delivering the anti-inflammatory medication into the correct joint / location. At Sound Diagnostic Radiology we use high end digital imaging technology that enables us to be able to reconstruct your CT images into any view, including 3D reconstructions.

Preparation

No preparation is required for a facet joint injection however, **please notify your doctor and the staff at Sound Diagnostic Radiology if you are a diabetic, have renal disease, have any allergies or you think you could be pregnant.**

What to expect

You should try and wear loose fitting clothing to your examination that doesn't contain any metal. However, you will be required to change into a gown to ensure that no 'artifacts' appear on your CT images. As metal objects do show up on xray images, all jewellery, eye glasses, dentures, hearing aids and hair pins maybe asked to be removed prior to your exam. You will be asked to lie on your belly on the CT table for your scan. Your radiographer (CT technician) will explain what will be expected for your study. You will then be moved through the machine and images taken whilst you are lying face down. You will be expected to hold your breath at differing intervals for the best images of your spine.

The Radiologist (imaging doctor) will then review the initial images to localize the facet joint in your spine causing your discomfort. Under sterile conditions a needle is guided into the joint to deliver a dose of cortisone and a long lasting local anaesthetic.

Allow 30 minutes for your facet joint injections although this may be longer if you have been requested to have more than one injection. We like to keep you in our rooms for approximately 20-30 minutes after the procedure in order to be sure that no post procedure complications have occurred and you are ready to leave.

What to bring

You must always bring your request form from your doctor. Please note that we accept all radiology request forms. If you have any previous xrays at home that may be relevant to your examination, please bring these with you, they can sometimes help to give a more accurate assessment of your presenting condition.

Always bring your Medicare card and any other concession cards.

Who does my xray?

A university trained Radiographer performs your CT scan. They are highly trained professionals that know how to achieve the best quality images to assess your area of concern.

A Radiologist (a doctor who is a specialist at interpreting the images) looks at all the CT images taken with your medical history to produce a diagnostic report.

When will I get the report?

Your report will be delivered to your referring practitioner and will be there by lunch on the following business day. If you require your results any earlier, please advise our reception staff and we will ensure they are ready for you.

After care instructions

As with any needle that you may have, the site can bruise and be tender. Pain relief can be taken such as panadol (aspirin is not recommended) Temporary numbness at the site and down the leg is not unusual and thus **we recommend that someone drives you to and from your appointment.** We recommend that you do not do any strenuous physical activity for a few days post procedure as to maximize the benefits of the cortisone injection.

If you experience severe pain, fever or prolonged numbness please consult both your doctor and our staff here at Sound Diagnostic Radiology.