

CT GUIDED FACET JOINT INJECTION

Appointment

Date:

Time:

Patient preparation:

No preparation, however, please advise staff if you take blood-thinning medication e.g. Aspirin, Warfarin or have allergies.

Time for examination:

Approximately 30 minutes.

Please bring:

- Your referral
- Medicare card
- Any related previous imaging including Nuclear Medicine Studies, X-Rays, Ultrasounds, CT and MRI scans.

Payment on the day of examination is requested.

For more information on your examination please call us or visit our website:

www.gcradiology.com.au

Your privacy is important to us. Rest assured the window tinting in our rooms allows you to view out, however, no one outside can see you.

Facet joints are the joints which allow slight movement between vertebral bodies, allowing the spine to move. Degenerative arthritis and inflammation of the facet joints can cause pain.

Your doctor has asked that you have an injection of local anaesthetic and steroid into the facet joints which may be the source of your pain. The injection is intended to relieve pain by decreasing nerve activity and reducing inflammation caused by a degenerative facet joint.

To perform the examination you will be asked to change into a gown and then lie face down on the Computer Tomography (CT) table. A Radiologist will then use CT to guide the tip of the needle to the joints requested by your doctor. Scanning is very quick and you may be asked to hold your breath for a very short time.

Once the needle tip is in a satisfactory position the mixture of local anaesthetic and steroid can be injected. The needle is removed and the examination is completed.

Risks of this procedure include radiation exposure (although very small), infection, allergies to medication and bleeding at the injection site. These complications are considered very rare.

After the examination you may experience some soreness at the injection site. Some temporary numbness down the leg on the affected side may also be experienced. A temporary slight increase in pain may also occur as the volume of medication within the facet joint causes extra pressure. You may take Paracetamol to relieve pain. Rest is advised and do not perform any heavy lifting for approximately 12 hours.

This procedure is considered diagnostic as well as therapeutic. The medication can take up to a week to relieve the pain from facet joint degeneration. However, some people may not experience any relief from this procedure as the facet joint may not be the cause for your pain. Your doctor can then continue investigating other causes of your pain.

Please inform staff if you may be pregnant.