

**Appointment
Date:**

Time:

Patient preparation:

No preparation, however, please advise staff if you take blood-thinning medication e.g. Aspirin, Warfarin or have allergies. Please consider someone to drive you home following the procedure.

Time for examination:

Approximately 30 minutes. You may be monitored for a further 30 minutes after the procedure.

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.

CT GUIDED NERVE ROOT SHEATH INJECTION

Nerve roots are the origins of the nerve as they emerge from the spinal cord. A disc prolapse (slip) and degenerative arthritis can contribute to irritation and inflammation of the nerve root which can cause pain.

Your doctor has asked that you have an injection of local anaesthetic and steroid into the nerve root which may be the source of your pain. The injection is intended to relieve pain by decreasing nerve activity and reducing inflammation. It is important to advise us when making your appointment if you are taking blood thinning medication.

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 nerve requested by your doctor. Scanning is very quick and you may be asked to hold your breath for a very short time as it is important to remain still.

Once the needle tip is in a satisfactory position the mixture of local anaesthetic and steroid can be injected. Some pain may be experienced during the procedure. 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 notice immediate relief of your pain due to the local anaesthetic. You may also experience some soreness at the injection site. Some temporary numbness down the limb on the affected side may also be experienced. 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 nerve root irritation. However, some people may not experience any relief from this procedure as the nerve root 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.