

Patient information

Facet Joint Injection Appointment Details

Imaging Department

Before Your Examination

There is no need for any special preparation for this examination. You should eat and drink normally.

Your hospital doctor or family doctor (GP) has advised that you need an injection of one or more of the joints of your lower back.

Any alternative treatments or procedures will have been discussed at your initial consultation with your referring practitioner.

What is a facet joint injection?

A facet joint injection is an X-ray examination of one or more of the joints of your spine using an injection of a colourless fluid known as an X-ray contrast agent, or dye and a steroid painkiller and/or local anaesthetic. It is carried out by a Radiologist (a doctor who specialises in X-rays).

What are the benefits of having a facet joint injection?

This procedure will help us make the correct diagnosis, so we will be able to give you the correct treatment. It should also give you some relief of your symptoms.

The risks of having a facet joint injection include:

- A very small risk of infection but this is very unlikely as the procedure is done under sterile conditions.
- There may be some bruising over the joint.
- We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. Each X-ray examination gives us a small additional dose. The dose varies with each examination.
- **Female patients** - if you are pregnant or there is any possibility of you being pregnant, please contact the X-ray department before your appointment.

What anaesthetic will I be given?

Local anaesthetic will be injected into the skin over the joint.

Local anaesthetic is drug-induced numbness: it may be provided by an anaesthetist, surgeon or other healthcare professional, depending on the technique used.

Like all medicines, local anaesthetics may sometimes cause side effects, as well as the effects that are needed. You may experience dizziness, blurred vision, drowsiness and occasionally loss of consciousness.

Serious side effects are rare, and include fits, low blood pressure, slowed breathing and changes in heartbeat, which may be life-threatening. If you have any concerns about any of these effects, you should discuss them with your doctor

You will be given an opportunity to discuss anaesthetic options and risks before your procedure

If you are worried about any of these risks, please speak to your Doctor or a member of their team.

The examination

You will be escorted into the X-ray room and asked to lie on the X-ray table. The skin over the joint that needs to be examined will be cleaned and a local anaesthetic will be injected into the area to numb the skin and the tissue under it.

When the skin is numb a fine needle will be placed into your joint and a colourless fluid known as an X-ray contrast agent, or dye contrast agent (dye) will be injected while the Radiologist watches the X-ray images on a TV monitor.

While the needle is still in place the doctor will give you a painkilling injection into the joint or joints. This may give you some relief from your symptoms but is not guaranteed to be completely successful.

The needle is then removed.

After the examination

When the examination is complete, a small plaster will be placed over the puncture site. A little discomfort may be noticed in your joint for one to two days after the examination and any strenuous exercise should be avoided for two days.

Results

Your results are sent to the doctor who asked for this test to be carried out. This may be the hospital doctor or your family doctor (GP).

Cancellations

If you are unable to keep this appointment, please let us know as soon as possible and we will arrange another for you.

If you fail to cancel and do not attend you will be discharged back to the care of the referring clinician.

Transport

If your medical condition or mobility needs mean that you cannot get to your appointment any other way and you require transport you should ring the Patient Transport Services (PTS) who will arrange one for you.

Tel: 0151 706 4676

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 4676

Car parking

Car parking for visitors and patients is available at the Q-Park multi-storey car park located across the road from the front entrance of the hospital. Vehicle entry to the car park is on Epworth Street which is off Erskine Street. The car park is open 24 hours a day seven days a week and charges apply. The car park is continually monitored by CCTV and parking attendants.

There are disabled spaces located within the car park. If you require help with parking ask a parking host at the car park entrance. There is a bus shuttle service for patients with mobility problems which operates Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm from Q-Park to the Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

Please bring this leaflet with you when you attend the X-ray Department.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further Information

If you have any further questions, or require further information, please contact the Appointments Office:

Tel: 0151 706 2759

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2759

NHS 111 Service

Tel: 111

Author: Imaging Department

Review Date: May 2021

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

يمكن توفير جميع المعلومات المتعلقة بالمرضى الموافق عليهم من قبل ائتمان المستشفى عند الطلب بصيغ أخرى، بما في ذلك لغات أخرى وبطرق تسهل قراءتها وبالحروف الطباعية الكبيرة وبالصوت وبطريقة برايل للمكفوفين وبطريقة مون والكترونياً.

所有經信托基金批准的患者資訊均可以其它格式提供，包括其它語言、易讀閱讀軟件、大字體、音頻、盲文、穆恩體 (Moon) 盲文和電子格式，敬請索取。

در صورت تمایل میتوانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاری پیوندیدار بهو نهخوشانهی له لایمن تراستهوه پامهند کراون، نهگمر داوا بکرنیت له فورماتیکانی تردا بریتی له زمانهکائی تر، نیزی رید (هاسان خویندنهوه)، چاپی گموره، شریتی دنگ، هیللی موون و نلیکترونیککی همیه.

所有经信托基金批准的患者信息均可以其它格式提供，包括其它语言、易读阅读软件、大字体、音频、盲文、穆恩体 (Moon) 盲文和电子格式，敬请索取。

Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhado kale, sida luqado kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.