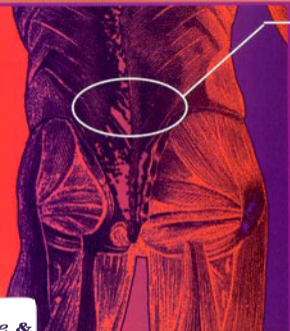


LUMBAR SYMPATHETIC BLOCK

Definition: This nerve block involves a numbing medicine (local anesthetic) and a long-acting anti-inflammatory agent (healing medicine). These medicines are placed near the lumbar sympathetic nerves (located outside of the spine in the low back) using x-ray guidance (C-Arm fluoroscopy). This very precise procedure will be performed by depositing medicines at the exact location of your problem, thus promoting the healing process. An IV sedative can be administered for your comfort.

Reasons for Treatment: A lumbar sympathetic block is effective in relieving some types of leg/foot or genital/rectal pain. These injections may be done once or in a series.

Procedure: The injection is performed on an outpatient basis and is usually painless. The nurse will gently assist you into position and an intravenous sedative (anesthetic) can then be given. You may feel some mild numbing of the skin on your back. As the needle is guided to the proper position using x-rays, you may feel some pressure in your back or leg. After you have recovered for a period of time (normally about 30-45 minutes), the nurses will give you discharge instructions and assist you in preparing to return home. If you experience any soreness, apply ice to the area for 15 minutes out of every hour. For any further questions, please don't hesitate to call Headache and Pain Center at (985) 580-1200 or 1-888-415-6363. Our physicians are on call twenty-four hours a day. If you have a problem, please contact Headache and Pain Center.



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