

MEDICAL ASSOCIATES OF NORTH GEORGIA

Pain Clinic Director:
Steven M. Lobel, MD
Board Certified:
PM&R and Pain Medicine

Program Director:
Medical Associates
Pain Medicine Fellowship

Specializing in Interventional Spine and Sports Medicine

Facet Joint Injections

These injections are prescribed by your doctor when other treatments have not satisfactorily controlled your back or neck pain. A local anesthetic is used to numb the skin and muscles, and then you will receive 3-4 injections of medication. X-ray is used to ensure correct needle placement. This is not surgery, and no tissue is removed. These injections are for diagnostic purposes and turn off the pain from a very small nerve next to the spine called a medial branch.

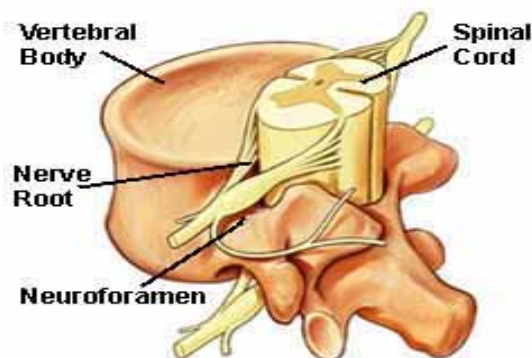
Complications:

Fainting, sweating, and nausea during the procedure occur in some people as a reaction to needles or the thought of needles. No steroids are injected during this procedure.

Please notify your doctor if you are allergic to local anesthetics or iodine, or if you have any heart problems. Other complications are extremely rare. If you have any questions or other special circumstances, please bring them to your doctor's attention.

What to expect after the injections:

The area injected may feel numb or even slightly irritated immediately after the injection. It is important for your doctor to know how much pain you had before and after the procedure. This is done on a 1-10 scale. The results are known within 20 minutes of completion of the injection. It is also important to know how long the pain relief lasts. It can vary between none at all to several months. Most patients report hours to days of pain relief. Depending on the amount of relief and how long it lasted, a second diagnostic injection may be performed using a different anesthetic agent. If the first two injections work well, you are a candidate for the procedure called RF ablation. This procedure is similar to the diagnostic nerve blocks, but can provide 9-18 months of pain relief. It uses heat to cauterize these small nerves that lie just outside the spine.



320 Hospital Road
Canton Georgia 30114
T: 770 479 5535 F: 770 479 8821
www.medassoc.com