



Your X-Ray Guided Facet Joint Injection

Radiology Department

Great Western Hospital

If you need to cancel or you have queries or concerns
please contact the department on

01793 60 50 59

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm

Your X-Ray Guided Facet Joint Injection

What is a Facet Joint Injection?

A Facet Joint Injection is an injection to the spine designed to provide treatment for the pain and diagnose the source of the pain. This is done in an x-ray room so that the positioning of the injection is monitored and is accurate. The injection includes local anaesthetic, anaesthetic, and steroid.

Are there any risks involved?

There is a minimal risk of infection, but cases like these are rare. The Radiologist will explain the risks and procedure before starting the examination.

During your procedure you will receive a dose of ionising radiation to help us form images of your body and this will provide your doctor with detailed information. The radiation dose is always kept as low as possible. The actual dose you receive will vary depending on the type of procedure you are having, but your doctor has considered this and feels that this is the best procedure for you to have to help diagnose or treat your condition.

We are all at risk of developing cancer in our lifetime and the added risk from undergoing your procedure is small and is outweighed because of the benefits it provides and every procedure that you have in Radiology has been assessed to ensure that the benefit outweighs the risk. For more information see the displays within the department or ask a member of staff.



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Why should I have this examination?

This procedure will hopefully reduce the discomfort you are feeling and help your doctor locate the exact position of your pain.

Before:

Is there anything I should do?

- If you are using **Warfarin/Clopidogrel or any other blood thinning drug** it is important that you ring the department on the telephone number below as soon as possible. You will need advice about using it during the days coming up to your appointment.
- If you are a female of childbearing age:

You must ring for further advice if you are breastfeeding, or think you might be pregnant.

Queries or concerns ring:

(01793) 60 50 59
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During:

- You will be asked to undress and wear a hospital gown.
- The procedure involves an injection of local anaesthetic to numb the area.
- Then x-ray dye, steroid and anaesthetic will be injected into the affected facet joint(s).



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- This examination should be completed in half an hour, but please allow for an hour in the department.

After:

- **If you are a diabetic patient please ask for advice before leaving the department.**
- You will not be able to drive yourself home following this examination. Please consider this when making your transport arrangements.
- Once you have reached home you should rest for the remainder of the day. You should be able to resume normal activities the following day.

For 48 hours post-procedure, do not apply direct heat or cold to the area (i.e. hot water bottles, hot baths, heat and cold packs). You may take your normal painkillers (but not aspirin) should there be any discomfort

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

Document Control

Division: Diagnostics & Outpatients
Department: Radiology & Scanning
Approved Date: 20 June 2018
Next Review Date: July 2021
Document Number: D&O - PIL0089