

An appointment has been made for you

Location _____

Time _____

Date _____

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- > Over 60 specialist radiologists, trained to provide you with accurate and reliable results
- > World class digital imaging networking between clinics provides the benefit of second opinions from specialist radiologists, no matter which of our clinics you attend.

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A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

Facet Joint Injections

For information regarding your appointment, please see the back of this leaflet.



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What are facet joint injections?

These are injections into the small joints which are located in the back and neck.

Preparation

No preparation is needed. If you are on medications, continue to take these as normal.

Please inform us if you are on medication to thin your blood (e.g. Warfarin, Aspirin).

If you are on special drugs or have diabetes and are on insulin, take your usual medicines and diet.

Procedure

You will be asked to lie flat on your stomach on the CT scanner or x-ray table. The skin over the facet joint in the back or neck is first cleaned with an antiseptic and then injected with a local anaesthetic.

Guided by x-ray or CT scanning, a very fine needle will be placed into the facet joint. Local anaesthetic and cortisone (steroid) solution will be injected. This may be uncomfortable for a very short time during the injection until the local anaesthetic takes effect.

The procedure takes approximately 15-20 minutes depending on the number of joints injected.

You may stay with us for a short time after your injection. You may then continue your usual activities however you should minimise physical activity for 24 hours after the injection.



How long will treatment last?

The effect varies for different people. There may be relief for weeks, months or even longer. It is important to remember that this is a treatment, not a cure. Some people get no benefit.

What are the side effects?

There may be slight soreness or bruising at the needle site. Any other problems are rare.

You may temporarily experience some numbness in the injected area. Rarely, headache may occur as a side effect.

Very rarely, serious side effects including permanent neurological damage can occur which are independent of operator skill. The radiologist and your referring doctor will discuss this with you when obtaining your consent.

Please bring any previous imaging with you on the day of your examination. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us!