

CHATTANOOGA ■ I M A G I N G

(423) 553-1234

Your appointment is scheduled for: Date _____ Time _____

Ordering physician _____ Diagnosis _____

Copy of report sent to _____

Thank you for choosing Chattanooga Imaging. The following information will assist you in understanding your procedure.

EPIDURAL STEROID INJECTIONS

What Is an Epidural Steroid Injection?

Epidural steroid injections are used to treat back pain with or without hip and leg pain; and to treat neck pain with or without arm and shoulder pain.

What To Expect

The radiologist uses an x-ray machine to locate the proper site of treatment. A small needle is then inserted through the skin into the back of the spinal canal. The needle placement is no more painful than drawing blood. Contrast material is injected to ensure accurate needle placement; long-acting steroid medications are then injected to diminish inflammation and decrease your pain. The injections may be slightly uncomfortable.

This procedure may provide weeks or months of pain relief. Additional injections may be needed, however, and are sometimes scheduled in sequence to offer the best chance of long-term pain relief.

Harmful effects are unlikely. Occasionally spinal fluid leakage and headache occur; these are treated by bed rest and fluid administration. Loss of muscle function may occur; this will resolve in a few hours after the local anesthetic effect has cleared. A very few patients experience fainting related to nervousness. Infection is a very unlikely possibility.

The radiologist and technologist will answer any questions you have before starting the procedure.

Patient Preparation

No special preparation is required before receiving epidural steroid injections.

If you have any questions about this procedure, please call us.

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