

# Cervical or Lumbar Facet Joint Injection

## Post-procedure

Pain relief can take a few days to occur so you may need to continue with your current medication for a short time. We ask that you rest the joint and avoid any strenuous activity.

## Risks and side effects

Complications are rare during this procedure however you should be informed of the possible risks and side effects.

### *Risks associated with this procedure include:*

- Pain or discomfort at the needle insertion site, or bruising after the procedure.
- Vasovagal reactions (feeling faint) may result in dizziness or temporary loss of consciousness and may be delayed (several minutes after the procedure). These are most likely to occur in young, fit patients. Please inform us if you feel dizzy at any stage.
- Infection is rare but may involve redness or swelling and increased joint pain, usually after 48 hours. Superficial infection is the most common form and responds rapidly to antibiotics; joint infection is very rare but can be severe and associated with permanent joint damage. Increasing back or neck pain needs to be promptly reported to your referring doctor.
- Risks associated with X-ray contrast and local anaesthetic injections include nausea and mild reactions such as rash or itching. Severe allergic reactions which may be life threatening are extremely rare.

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**If you experience any side effects please call us on 6382 3888 or contact your GP.**

**If you are still concerned and it is after hours please contact your nearest Emergency Department.**

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MEDICAL IMAGING



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