WHAT IS A FLUOROSCOPY-GUIDED SPINE INJECTION?
Fluoroscopy is an imaging technique that uses x-rays to obtain real-time moving images of the internal structures of your body. The Radiologist, with assistance from our technologist, will use the x-ray images to accurately guide a needle into the appropriate area of the spine.

IS FLUOROSCOPY SAFE?
Fluoroscopy uses radiation to create the images of the body that will guide the radiologist’s injection. Your safety is of paramount importance to us so we have invested in technology that uses the lowest possible radiation dose necessary to produce the highest quality images.

WHY IS A FLUOROSCOPY-GUIDED SPINAL INJECTION ORDERED?
The purpose of a spine injection is two-fold:
1. It can assist in diagnosing the source of your pain.
2. It can also provide relief through the injection of a local anesthetic (numbing medication) and anti-inflammatory steroid medications. It has the potential to reduce inflammation, resulting in long-term pain relief.

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF FLUOROSCOPY-GUIDED SPINAL INJECTION?
- Epidural Steroid Injection (ESI) - An epidural steroid injection places medication in the epidural space surrounding the sac containing the spinal fluid and nerve roots. The goal is to get the medication to spread over a wide area in the spine and to decrease inflammation.

- Nerve Root Block - A nerve root block places medication directly adjacent to the nerve root believed to be causing pain. It results in a more targeted area of medication distribution, but may not be suitable in patients with multilevel spine problems.

- Facet injection - A facet injection places medication directly into the facet joints of the spine. Degenerative changes in these joints can cause distinct pain symptoms, which are not well treated by injection into the epidural space or along nerve roots.

HOW WILL MY FLUOROSCOPY EXAM BEGIN?
A member of your care team will escort you to the clinical area to prepare you for your procedure. We are performing many different exams in our center so you may notice others being called back before you for a different type exam. If you wait more than 15 minutes, please let our registrar know and we will check on the status of your exam. For your safety, if you are pregnant or suspect that you may be pregnant, please inform the technologist.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT DURING MY INJECTION?
The skin will be cleaned and a sterile drape will be placed over the procedure area. It is important not to touch this area after it is cleaned to decrease risk of infection. The skin and superficial tissues are numbed using an anesthetic. Then, the radiologist will guide the needle into the appropriate area of the spine using x-ray guidance (fluoroscopy), and will then inject contrast to ensure correct placement of the needle. A combination of an anti-inflammatory and an anesthetic (numbing) medication are then injected for pain relief. You will remain awake during the 15-20 minute procedure, and may experience some slight pressure or discomfort during the injection. If multiple injections are required, the procedure may last longer and require more than one needle stick. If you feel sharp pain, let the radiologist know as additional numbing medication can be administered to increase your comfort.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT AFTER MY INJECTION?
• You may experience initial numbness and/or relief from your symptoms for up to six hours after the injection due to the anesthetic (numbing) component of the injection.
• Your usual symptoms may then return, and may possibly be worse than usual for a day or two. You may take Tylenol or NSAID medication (Ibuprofen, Naproxen, etc.) as needed.
• You may engage in light activity for the first 24 hours after the procedure, and after that you can engage in your normal activities. You may shower the next day.
• The beneficial anti-inflammatory effects of the steroids may take as long as 5-7 days to begin.
• Rare possible complications include facial flushing, elevated blood sugars in diabetic patients, infection, bleeding, headache, and temporary numbness of the legs.

If you have any questions before or after your procedure, feel free to call our dedicated nurse number at 434-243-0390.
Welcome to UVA Imaging!

We are pleased that you have chosen us to perform your imaging exam. It is our privilege to take care of you today. We care about your comfort, safety and privacy so please let us know if there is anything that we can do to assist you.

At UVA Imaging, all of our Diagnostic Technologists are registered with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. You can be confident in the expertise of our staff and the quality of the images that we produce.

Every study that is performed at UVA Imaging is interpreted by one of UVA’s sub-specialty trained radiologists. You deserve their experience and expertise because their acutely trained eyes catch what others might miss. When the radiologist completes the review of your images, the results of your exam will be sent directly to your referring provider. Your results will also be available in MyChart seven days after they have been completed. If you would like access to your record, please visit mychart.uvahealthsystem.virginia.edu.

Fluoroscopy Guided Spine Injection

Scheduling Phone: 434-243-0321
General Information: 434-243-9198
www.uvaimaging.com

Charlottesville Locations

Fontaine Research Park - Building 415
415 Ray C. Hunt Drive
MRI, CT, Ultrasound, X-ray

Fontaine Research Park - Building 545
545 Ray C. Hunt Drive
X-ray, Bone Density, Ultrasound, MSK Fluoroscopy & Pain Injections

Northridge Medical Park
2965 Ivy Road
MRI, Ultrasound, X-ray, MSK Fluoroscopy & Pain Injections

Zion Crossroads Location

Zion Crossroads Medical Park
1015 Spring Creek Parkway
MRI, CT, Ultrasound, X-ray, Mammography

Contact Us

You may receive a survey from the UVA health system in the mail asking about today’s appointment. If you receive a survey, we hope that you will complete and return it so we can learn from your feedback. You may also visit us online at uvaimaging.com to share any comments about your experience today.

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