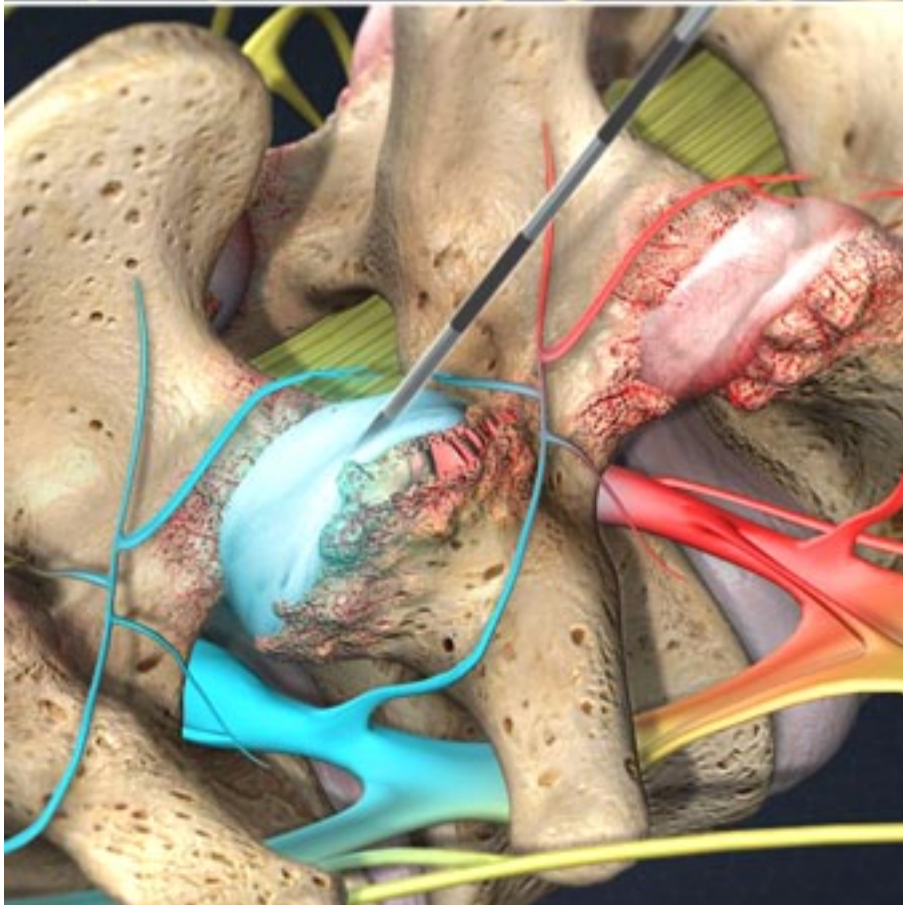
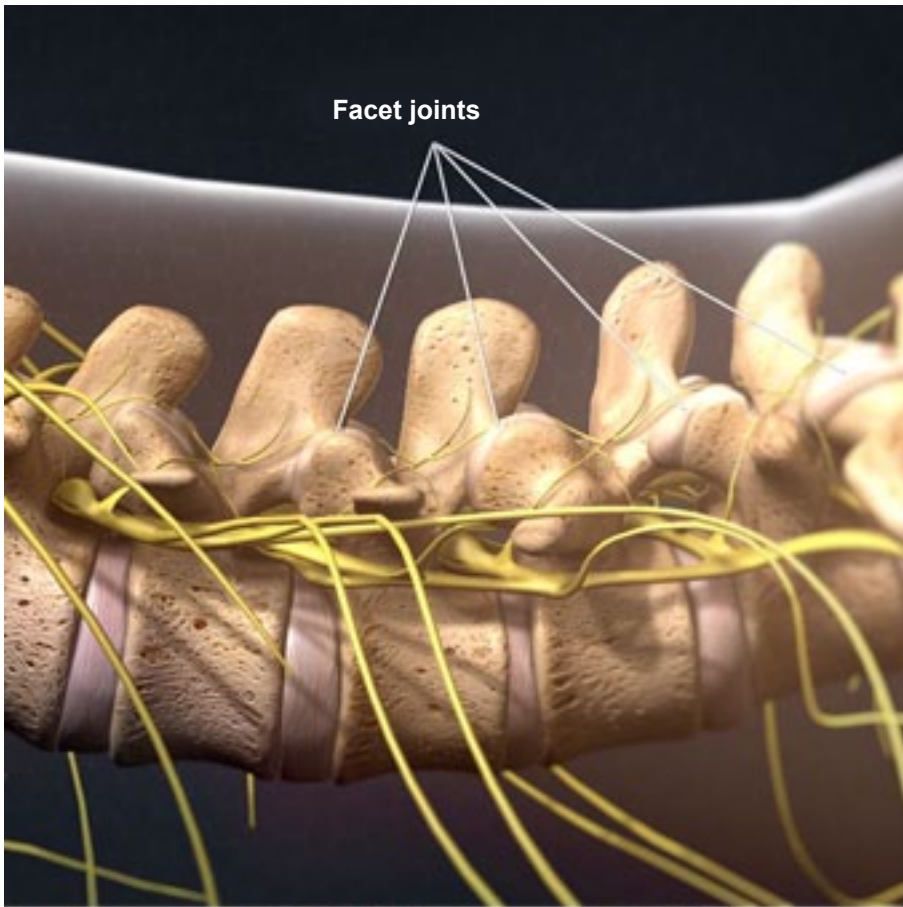


Facet Joint Injections



Overview

The facet joints, found on both sides of the back of the spine, can become painfully irritated or inflamed. A facet joint injection may help diagnose the source of a patient's pain. It can also relieve pain and inflammation.

Skin Numbed

In preparation for the procedure, the physician numbs the skin and tissue above the facet joint with an injection of local anesthetic.

Placement Confirmed

With the aid of an x-ray device called a fluoroscope, the physician guides a needle through the numbed tissue and into the facet joint. Contrast dye is injected into the joint to confirm the needle's placement.

Medication Injected

Once the needle is positioned properly, the physician injects a soothing mixture of numbing anesthetic and anti-inflammatory steroid medication. One or more facet joints may be treated. If this causes the pain to subside, it suggests that the facet joint (or joints) injected were the cause of pain.

End of Procedure

Back or neck pain may disappear immediately after a successful injection because of the anesthetic that is administered. As this anesthetic wears off, pain may return. The steroid will begin to take effect in the days after the injection. The steroid will reduce inflammation and pain. The injection can provide relief for a span ranging from several days to several months. Up to three injections may be given per year.

1. If you are taking any blood thinners, you may continue to take these prior to your procedure. There is NO need to discontinue these medications.
2. Notify staff of any allergies: iodine, anesthetic, seafood, steroids, latex or contrast dye
3. Following your procedure, apply ice for 20 minutes every 1-2 hours.
4. If you encounter soreness after your procedure and are able to take NSAIDS (Ibuprofen, Aleve, Meloxicam) you may do so. Please follow medication directions on dosage and how often you may take these.

If you have any questions following your procedure or experience any complications please, call our office.