



C2 Dorsal Root Ganglion Block

<i>What is it?</i>	A C2 Dorsal Root Ganglion Block is an injection performed on the cervical spine (neck area). A fluoroscope (x-ray machine) assists the physician in locating the nerve roots that are thought to be inflamed and contributing to your pain.
<i>Why is it done?</i>	This procedure is performed to relieve headaches that originate from the C2 level (upper neck). These headaches are located in the occipital area (back of the head), and usually to one side. An area of numbness may also be associated with this headache. Some facial pain syndromes (groups of symptoms with a common cause) may also respond to this procedure.
<i>How is it done?</i>	Prior to the start of the procedure an intravenous (IV) catheter (tube) is placed in your vein. When you are in the procedure room, you will be asked to lie on your back on a cushioned x-ray table. You will receive conscious sedation through your IV. Conscious sedation includes medication to help you relax, but it will not put you to sleep. A small needle is used to inject a local anesthetic (numbing medication) into the neck to numb the skin, this may sting a little. Next, a small needle is placed in the neck, in the area above the second cervical vertebrae, at the location of the exiting C2 nerve root, where the ganglion (a collection of small nerves) exists. Correct location of the needle tip is confirmed with the assistance of fluoroscopy. Then a solution of long acting local anesthetic and cortisone derivative (anti-inflammatory medication) will be injected. The needle is removed and a small band aid is applied.
<i>Is there any preparation?</i>	You will receive conscious sedation. Conscious sedation is medication given through an IV (tube) in your arm. The medication will help you relax, but it will not put you to sleep. If you opt to have conscious sedation, you MUST NOT EAT OR DRINK for 4 hours before your procedure. You may, however, take your medication with a small sip of water.
<i>What to wear?</i>	Please wear loose, comfortable clothing. Please leave all jewelry and other valuables at home.
<i>How long does it take?</i>	We ask that you arrive 30-45 minutes before the scheduled time of your procedure. The procedure lasts about 15 to 30 minutes, and you will be in the recovery area about 15 minutes.
<i>Risks</i>	The risks of this procedure include , but are not limited to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Pain in the area where the needle(s) was inserted, this can last for two to three days. This can be treated by using ice and mild analgesics (pain medication) such as Motrin, Naprosyn or Tylenol. * Difficulty breathing, resulting in controlled ventilation (being put on a ventilator) * Seizure * Bleeding in the injection area. * Infection in the injection area. * Increased pain * Nerve damage, paralysis, stroke and even death.