



Ilioinguinal/Genitofemoral Injection

<i>What is it?</i>	An ilioinguinal (lower abdomen) or genitofemoral (groin) block is an injection of a solution of cortisone (anti-inflammatory medication) and a local anesthetic (numbing medication) around certain nerves in your lower abdomen or groin.
<i>Why is it done?</i>	The block is performed to diagnose the cause of your pain, or to relieve pain resulting from damage to the nerves in a specific area. Nerve damage may have resulted from prior surgery, hernias (part of intestine bulging through a weakness in an abdominal muscle) or abdominal wall pain syndrome.
<i>How is it done?</i>	A small needle is used to place a solution of cortisone (anti-inflammatory medication) and local anesthetic (medication that numbs a specific area) around certain nerves in your lower abdomen or groin. For an ilioinguinal injection, a small needle is placed just to the inside of the iliac crest (hip bone) in your lower abdomen. For a genitofemoral injection, a small needle is placed near the pubic bone in the lower abdomen. Although the needle is small, the procedure can sometimes be uncomfortable since the treatment area tends to be painful. A band-aid or small sterile dressing is placed after the procedure, and can be removed at your discretion. On rare occasions, the injection may affect the femoral nerve, resulting in numbness or weakness in the leg for up to 24 hours.
<i>What to wear?</i>	Please wear loose comfortable clothing. Please leave valuables at home.
<i>How long does it take?</i>	We ask that you arrive at the surgery center 30 - 45 minutes prior to your procedure. The procedure will last 5 -10 minutes. You will be in the recovery room for 10 - 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 2 – 3 days, and can be treated by using ice and mild analgesics (pain medication) such as Motrin, Naprosyn or Tylenol. * A reaction to the local anesthetic or dye. These reactions usually do not require further treatment. * Temporary numbness or weakness in your leg. This is normal. You should have assistance with walking and should not drive for 24 hours. * Bleeding in the injection area. * Infection in the injection area. * Increased pain * Nerve damage, paralysis, stroke and even death.