

INTRASPINAL DRUG TRIAL

<i>What is it?</i>	A Spinal drug trial is an injection of a medication into the spine to determine if the medication will relieve symptoms associated with your pain syndrome or spastic condition (certain muscles are continuously contracted). This is primarily done if conservative treatment has failed or is causing intolerable side effects. The exact medication will be chosen by your doctor as it relates to your condition. Usually, spinal drug trials will be repeated at several weeks to be certain the medication is effective.
<i>Why is it done?</i>	A spinal injection of Baclofen is used to determine the effectiveness of this medication in treatment of conditions including multiple sclerosis, dystonia (involuntary muscle contractions) and stoke. A spinal injection of Clonidine is used to determine the effectiveness of this medication in neuropathic (nerve) pain syndromes. Such syndromes include complex regional pain syndromes and neuropathies (pain resulting from damage to the nervous system). A spinal injection of Dilaudid is used to determine the effectiveness of this medication in chronic and refractory pain syndromes (pain that is resistant to ordinary treatment). A good response to any of these medications would indicate that you may be a candidate for a permanent implanted spinal infusion system (delivers continuous doses of medication).
<i>How is it done?</i>	An intravenous (IV) catheter (tube) will be inserted in your arm. When you are in the procedure room you be placed in a sitting or lying position on a stretcher. A small needle is used to inject a local anesthetic (numbing medication) to numb the skin. This may sting a little. Then a small needle will be placed into your lower back and the medicine will be injected into your spine. The needle will be removed and a small band aid will be applied. After the procedure you will be observed in the recovery room.
<i>Is there any preparation?</i>	Due to the number of hours you are required to stay after the procedure, <u>we ask you to bring all your medications in the original containers that you may require.</u> You may also want to bring a friend, a book or some activity to occupy the time. YOU MUST NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING <u>4</u> hours before your procedure.
<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 10 minutes. If you received Dilaudid you are required you to stay in the recovery area for <i>at least 10 hours</i> (this is not a misprint). If you have received Baclofen or Clonidine your stay is usually a minimum of 2 to 4 hours.
<i>Risks</i>	The risks of this procedure include , but are not limited to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Difficulty breathing or excessive drowsiness. Fluids and or other medications can be given through the intravenous line to help this problem. * A drop in your blood pressure. Fluids and or other medications can be given through the intravenous line to help this problem. *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. *An allergic reaction to the medication. * Temporary numbness or weakness in one or both legs. 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.