

Cervical Transforaminal Block (Selective Epidural)

What is it?	A cervical transforaminal block procedure 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.
Why is it done?	This procedure is performed on patients with pain that radiates from the neck to the arm(s). Examination and/or test (MRI, EMG) results show evidence of nerve root entrapment or injury. Some diseases that may cause nerve root entrapment include: herniated (ruptured) disc, a bulging disc, arthritis or bony spurs (protrusions) in the neck. Some patients who have had neck surgery may have developed scar tissue that has compressed the nerve.
How is it done?	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. A small needle is used to inject a local anesthetic (numbing medication) to numb the skin, this may sting a little. Next, a small needle is placed and dye may be injected to confirm correct location of the needle tip in the neural foramen (the hole where the nerve root exits) with the assistance of fluoroscopy. The dye will spread along the nerve root itself and into the space surrounding the spinal canal. Once the nerve root location is confirmed, a solution of local anesthetic and a cortisone derivative (anti-inflammatory medication) is then injected. The needle is removed and a small band aid is applied.
Is there any preparation?	You may 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 .
What to wear?	Please wear loose, comfortable clothing. Please leave all jewelry and other valuables at home.
How long does it take?	We ask that you arrive 30 to 45 minutes before the scheduled time of your procedure. The procedure is about 15-30 minutes, and you will be in the recovery area about 15 minutes.
What are the possible side effects of steroid medication?	Administration of steroid medication can cause side effects. They include, but not limited to: hyperglycemia (increased blood sugar), sweats, hot/cold flashes, flushing of the face, hypertension (increased blood pressure), osteoporosis, insomnia, mood swings and Cushing's Syndrome.
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. * A reaction to the local anesthetic or dye. These reactions usually do not require further treatment. * If you ever had an allergic reaction to contrast or anesthesia, you must tell your doctor <u>before</u> the procedure is done. * Tell your doctor <u>before</u> the procedure if taking blood thinners, have a blood disease that affects clotting, have a bowel obstruction and or have an uncontrolled infection. * Bleeding in the area of the injection due to damage to blood vessels. * Temporary numbness or weakness in one or both arms. This is normal. You should not drive for 24 hours. If the temporary numbness or weakness persists, please contact your doctor. * Infection in the area of the injection. * Increased pain. * Nerve damage, diarrhea, paralysis, stroke and even death.

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PLEASE SEE THE BACK FOR YOUR INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING YOUR PROCEDURE

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Will I receive a pre-procedure phone call?	A nurse from our office will call you 24-48 hours prior to your procedure. She will ask you a few important medical questions, AND she will confirm your appointment. We must have a verbal confirmation from you 24-48 hours prior to your procedure. Failure to return our call could result in your procedure being rescheduled.
Where can I obtain more procedure information?	Please visit our website www.nyspineandwellness.com . It contains demonstrations of some of the procedures we offer. We also have other helpful information.
Can I drive home from the procedure?	<input type="checkbox"/> You MUST have a ride home, and your driver should remain on site. You must not drive or operate heavy machinery for 24 hours.
Can I eat Breakfast? <i>*the box with a check applies to you</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, you can eat a light breakfast or light lunch <input type="checkbox"/> No, DO NOT EAT OR DRINK for 4 hours before your procedure. However, you may take your medicine but only with a small sip of water.
Should I stop taking aspirin?	If you take ASPIRIN or products containing ASPIRIN in doses greater than 325 mg/per day, you must stop taking it 7 days prior to your procedure (examples of ASPIRIN-containing products include but are not limited to: EXCEDRIN, FIORINAL, AND ALKA SELTZER, etc).
Can I take the aspirin prescribed for <u>cardiac</u> and or <u>stroke</u> prevention?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, HOWEVER <u>limit the daily dose to 81 mgs per day</u> for the 7 days prior to the day of the procedure.
Can I take my blood thinner? <i>*the box with a check applies to you</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Our provider has advised you on the number of days to hold the blood thinner you take. <input type="checkbox"/> Our provider will have to contact the Doctor who has prescribed the blood thinner for you to learn how long it is safe for you to be off the medicine prior to your procedure. One of our nurses will call you when we have obtained that information.
Can I take my other medications? <i>*the box with a check applies to you</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, except for blood thinners. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, only with a small sip of water, (you must not take your blood thinner)
What time is my procedure?	You will receive a phone call one or two business days prior to your procedure to remind you of the time you should arrive for your procedure (usually 30-40 minutes prior to the scheduled time) and the location. PLEASE BE ON TIME. <i>*some patients may receive a call to confirm insurance information.</i>
How long will it take?	We ask that you plan <u>1½ -3 hours</u> from the time you arrive at the center to the time you are discharged. Please understand that circumstances sometimes arise that are out of our control, which cause a longer delay. Please plan accordingly.
What do I bring?	You must bring the following <u>each time</u> you have a procedure: 1. Your current insurance information 2. A written list of all your current medications including the strength and frequency you take them. Please include over the counter medication, vitamins and herbal supplements.
What shall I wear?	Please wear comfortable loose fitting clothing.
Can I wear jewelry?	No. Please leave all jewelry and other valuables at home. We are unable to store them safely. Any body- piercing jewelry must be completely removed, as this may interfere with the x-ray machine.
What do I do if I am ill or have to cancel?	Please call the office 24 hours in advance if you are unable to keep your appointment. (315) 552-6700. We do charge patients for no shows.