

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, a hernia (part of intestine bulging through a weakness in an abdominal muscle) or abdominal wall pain syndrome (abdominal pain that does not appear to be associated with a particular abdominal organ or organ system).
<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.
<i>What to wear?</i>	Please wear loose, comfortable clothing and leave all jewelry and other valuables at home.
<i>How long will it take?</i>	Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment time. The procedure lasts about 15.
<i>Can I drive home from the procedure?</i>	No, you must have someone available to drive you home after the procedure.
<i>Can I eat before?</i>	Yes we encourage you to eat a normal breakfast and or lunch.
<i>Should I stop taking aspirin?</i>	No.
<i>Can I take my medications?</i>	Yes
<i>What are the possible side effects of steroid medication?</i>	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.
<i>Risks of this procedure include, but are not limited to:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pain in the area where the needle(s) was/were 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. * Risks of local anesthesia include, but are not limited to: allergic reaction to the medication and soreness at the injection site, seizures and cardiac arrhythmias. * 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.