



Lumbar Sympathetic Block

This procedure is done to relieve leg pain from Complex Regional Pain Syndromes, which may appear after an injury to a joint or limb. Usually a series of these injections is needed to treat the problem.

STEP 1

Patients lie either on their side or stomach on a table equipped with a special x-ray (fluoroscopic) unit, and an intravenous (IV) line is started to administer medication that relaxes the patient. A local anesthetic numbs the skin and all the tissue down to the sympathetic nerves.

STEP 2

The physician slides a needle through the anesthetized track. A contrast solution is injected so the physician can use an x-ray (fluoroscope) to see the painful areas and to confirm the correct location of the needle tip.

STEP 3

Next, a mixture of anesthetic, saline and anti-inflammatory medicine is injected around the sympathetic nerves to block pain signals from reaching the brain.

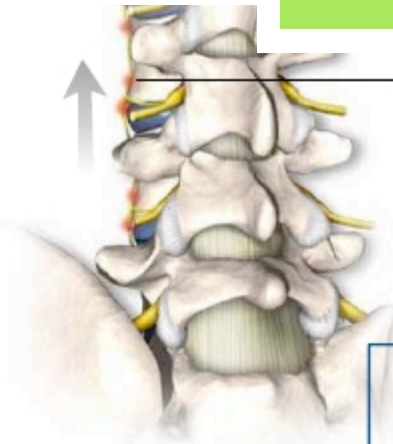
END OF PROCEDURE

The legs may feel weak or numb for a few hours after the procedure. Then, pain from the legs should improve. More blocks may be repeated about once a week until the pain subsides. Patients who are on blood thinning medications or who have an infection near the injection site should not receive the block.

BLOCK PROCEDURE

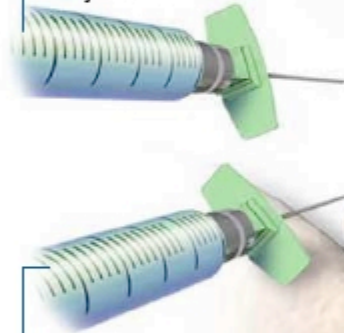
Pain signals travel to the brain via the sympathetic nerve

- 1 A local anesthetic numbs the skin and all the tissue down to the sympathetic nerves



Color brochure explains Lumbar Sympathetic Block

- 2 A contrast solution is injected



- 3 A mixture of anesthetic, saline and anti-inflammatory medicine is injected

PAIN AFTER NERVE BLOCK PROCEDURE

Pain signals are blocked at the point of injection

