

**PHYSICIANS' SPINE CENTER**  
**INFORMED CONSENT FOR EPIDURAL STEROID INJECTION**  
**DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM UNTIL YOU HAVE READ IT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT**

PATIENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

The following has been explained to me and I understand that:

- 1) The REASON THIS PROCEDURE IS BEING PERFORMED is: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The NATURE OF THE PROCEDURE is: insertion of a needle into the epidural space inside the spinal canal, injection of iodine contrast, and administration of a steroid and local anesthetic drugs.
- 3) The PURPOSE OF THE PROCEDURE is: to reduce inflammation and reduce your pain.
- 4) MATERIAL RISKS OF THE PROCEDURE include: infection, allergic reaction, temporary paralysis. In addition, there may be other possible risks such as pain at the site of injection, weakness and numbness of the arms and legs, spinal headache and worsening of your presenting symptoms.
- 5) The administration of a non-ionic contrast material may be necessary to use to obtain additional diagnostic information. Usually, contrast material is quite safe. However, any injection carries some risk of harm. Occasionally, a patient will have a mild reaction to the contrast agent and develop sneezing or hives. Uncommonly (1: 1,000), a serious reaction occurs. Very rarely (1-2:100,000) death has occurred related to contrast administration.
- 6) The LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS OF THE ABOVE PROCEDURE is: GOOD
- 7) PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES TO THIS PROCEDURE include: no treatment, oral medication, and/or bed rest.
- 8) I understand that the physician, medical personnel, and other assistants will rely on statements about and/or from myself, my medical history, and other information in determining whether to perform the procedure or the course of treatment for my condition and in recommending the procedure which has been explained.

**Please check any of the following characteristics you may have and alert the staff:**

- A history of adverse reaction to contrast material with the exception of heat/flushing sensation or a single nausea/vomiting episode.
  - A history of asthma or allergy.
  - Significant heart disorder including recent or imminent cardiac decompensation, severe arrhythmias, unstable angina pectoris, recent myocardial infarction, and pulmonary hypertension.
  - Any drug allergy.
  - Diabetic
  - Pregnancy.
  - Taking any blood thinners.
- 9) I understand that the practice of medicine is not an exact science and that no guarantees or assurances have been made to me concerning the results of this procedure.
  - 10) I consent to diagnostic studies, tests, local and/or general anesthesia, x-ray examinations, and any other treatment or courses of treatment relating to the diagnosis or procedures described herein as may be deemed advisable.
  - 11) I consent to the taking of photographs or the use of video recording equipment during the procedure for the purpose of medical education.
  - 12) Additional materials used, if any, for this procedure include: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 13) I voluntarily allow Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ OR an associate and all medical personnel under the direct supervision and control of such physician along with all other personnel who may otherwise be involved in performing such procedures to perform the procedures described or otherwise referred to herein.
  - 14) I understand that during the course of the procedure described above it may be necessary or appropriate to perform additional procedures which are unforeseen or not known to be needed at the time this consent is given. I consent to and authorize the persons described herein to make the decisions concerning such procedures. I also consent to and authorize the performance of such procedures as they deem necessary or appropriate.
  - 15) If I choose not to have the above procedure, my prognosis (future medical condition) is: UNKNOWN
  - 16) I consent to the release of all records pertaining to my treatment to other physicians or health professionals involved in my case.
  - 17) **By signing this form I acknowledge that I have read or have had this form read and/or explained to me, that I fully understand its contents, that I have been given ample opportunity to ask questions, that my questions have been answered satisfactorily, and that I knowingly and voluntarily give my complete unfettered consent to the procedures described herein. All blanks or statements requiring completion were filled in, and all statements I do not approve of were stricken before I signed this form. I have received additional information including, but not limited to, the materials listed above related to the procedures described herein, and I authorize you to give me reasonable and proper care by today's standards.**

Signature of person giving consent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to patient, if not patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient unable to sign because: \_\_\_\_\_ Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EPIDURAL STERIOD INJECTIONS PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET**

Epidural injections are used to treat back pain with or without hip and leg pain; and neck pain with or without arm and shoulder pain. The radiologist will use a fluoroscope to locate the proper site of treatment. A needle smaller than usually used to draw blood will be placed through your skin and into the back of your spinal canal. The needle placement is no more painful than drawing blood. The injection of medication may be slightly painful. Iodine contrast material may be injected to insure accurate needle placement. Long acting steroid medication will be injected to diminish inflammation in an effort to improve your pain. This may provide weeks or months of pain relief but additional injections may be needed and are sometimes scheduled in sequence to offer the best chance of long term relief.

Harmful effects are unlikely. Occasionally the spinal canal may be entered too deeply and this may result in spinal fluid leakage and headache. That would be treated by bed rest and fluid administration. If local anesthetic is injected too deeply, loss of leg function may ensue but will resolve in three hours or less when the local anesthetic effect has cleared. This is a very unlikely complication and local anesthetic is used only when the contrast injection shows the needle to be in absolutely perfect position. A very few number of patients experience fainting related to nervousness. Infection is a very unlikely possibility that we have not encountered in several years experience with this procedure

The radiologist and technologist will answer any questions you have prior to beginning this procedure. Also, if you are Diabetic and monitoring your blood sugar expect a rise in your blood glucose following your steroid injection.

**PLEASE SIGN HERE TO ACKNOWLEDGE READING:**

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