

Lumbar Puncture

What is a Lumbar Puncture?

A lumbar puncture is a special procedure where doctors can take out fluid around your spine, inject medicine, and/or check the pressure in that area. A special doctor, called an Interventional Radiologist, uses a machine to help see inside your body. This way, they can gently place a hollow needle into the lower part of the spine.

Things to Note After the Procedure:

- **Pain:** You might feel some pain or discomfort after the procedure. You can take over-the-counter pain medicine as needed and approved by your doctor. If you're in the hospital, ask your doctor for pain medicine.
- **Activity:** Don't do any hard physical activities for 24 hours.
- **Hygiene:** You can take a shower after 24 hours or when you take your dressing off.
- **Going back to School or Work:** You may go back to school or work the next day.
- **Follow-up:** Call your primary doctor to set up an appointment to talk about the test results.

How to Care for the Dressing:

- Keep the gauze and clear dressing on for 24 hours after the procedure.

Return to the Emergency Department (ED) if:

- Your pain gets worse, and the pain medicine you buy at the store doesn't help.
- The area gets more red, swollen, or starts to leak fluid or blood.
- You start shaking with chills or have a fever higher than 101° F (38.5° C).
- You have a hard time breathing.

Contact Information for Interventional Radiology:

- **For emergencies:**
Please go to the closest emergency room
- **Non-emergent questions:**
Please call (323) 361- 2436 during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Interventional Radiology

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