

Diagnostic Imaging Department

FACET JOINT INJECTIONS

What is a FACET JOINT INJECTION?

This is a procedure used for relieving low back pain originating from the facet joints of the lower spine using x-rays to see the position of the joints.

What happens during the procedure?

After sedation has been given through an arm vein, local anaesthetic is injected into the skin over the facet joints. Needles are then placed into each of the joints affected and long acting local anaesthetic and anti-inflammatory drugs injected. The needles are then removed and a small dressing is applied. A simple manipulation (still under sedation) is then performed.

What do I have to do?

Report to the Day Surgery Unit for registration at the time given on the appointment letter. Because of the sedation given during the procedure you must not drive or operate machinery for 36 hours. (It is therefore essential that you arrange for a friend or relative to take you to and from the hospital.)

After the examination you will be taken to the Day Surgery Unit until you have recovered from the sedation, approximately 1-2 hours.