



ISPROC, Ltd

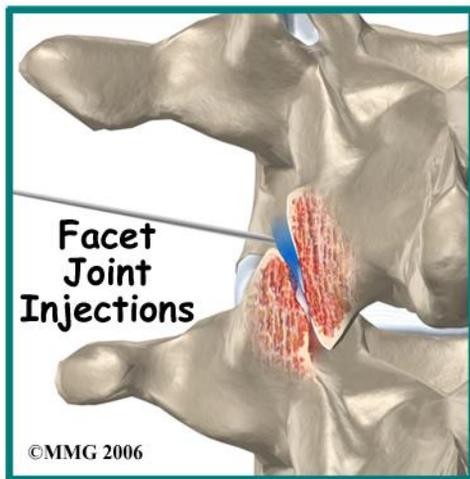


Interventional Spine & Pain Rehabilitation Center

Patient Facet Handout

You are being scheduled or have been offered an interventional treatment. An facet treatment is usually done for a pain in the back including your tailbone, thoracic area or up to your neck.

The following will help you understand what is happening and what we hope to accomplish. Although Dr Mike has explained the procedure in detail, there are still many questions you and your family may have again. Most of the procedures take 3 to 5 minutes, but you should plan to be here about an hour.



The Interventions are all done under X-ray guidance as seen to your left. This enables the doctor to place the medicine safely in the right place. The purpose of the injection is usually to decrease inflammation, decrease pain, make therapy possible/more effective. There are two medicines that are usually injected. One decreases the inflammation (corticosteroid called DepoMedrol) and the other is a numbing medicine (local anesthetic) and the contrast agent you see in black. Facet joints are what stabilize our spine and “ride” over each other as we move. They can make noise and be painful like any other joint

You will get plenty of numbing medicine, and the numbing medicine is mixed with a type of baking soda so you feel even less discomfort. Facets have small nerves that go to them, these nerves can be “buzzed” with a radioprobe for more permanent relief but need to be injected usually twice first.

This intervention can be done several different ways and it may be necessary to use more than one approach. These are done from the back into the sacroiliac area or more commonly at the belt line. They are all effective. They enable Dr Mike to get the medicine in and around arthritis, spurs, or scar tissue. We often use the Radiofrequency machine to buzz these joints later. This does not effect your legs or arms or you ability to move

Dr. Mike is not going to hurt you. You have the right to say “Stop” at any point and Dr Mike will stop.

:On the Day of Your Intervention:

--Take all your regular medicines that morning , including any pain medications, with a light breakfast

--You should plan to go home and not plan anything the rest of the day. You can resume your normal activity the next day.

--You will get standard written instructions after your procedure

--If you are not able to make your appointment for any reason, you must call and cancel 24 hours prior to the procedure, otherwise you will be directly billed a “No Show” fee. – there are usually many patients on a waiting list that can be called-in if you were the cancel for any reason

--If you use insulin, eat a light breakfast and cut your morning dose of insulin in half. If you do not use insulin, you do not need to adjust any of your medications.