

Gray Ramus Communicans Nerve Block

OVERVIEW

This injection procedure is performed to relieve low back pain caused by discogenic pain. This procedure is usually performed when surgical intervention is not an option. A discography is performed before the procedure to determine the levels that are causing the discogenic pain. It is necessary to repeat the procedure two times to confirm the appropriate course of treatment. If the patients get significant relief from both injections the patient is a candidate for Radiofrequency Neurotomy of the Gray Ramus Communicans Nerve.

STEP 1

A local anesthetic numbs the skin and tissue below.

STEP 2

Using a needle the physician then slides the needle through the anesthetized track. Under fluoroscope, the physician guides the needle toward the gray ramus communicans nerve located at the mid juncture of the vertebral body.

STEP 3

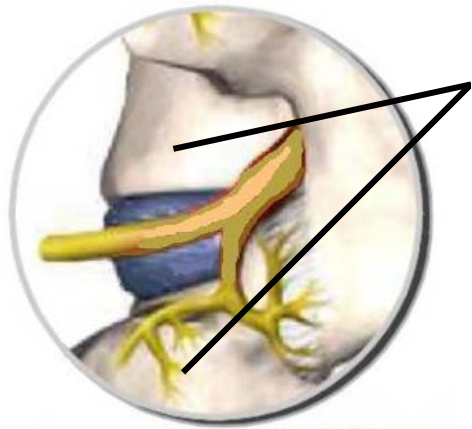
A contrast solution is injected so the physician can use the fluoroscope to locate and confirm the correct location of the needle tip.

STEP 4

A steroid-anesthetic mix is injected into the gray ramus communicans nerve at the level above and below the positive level for the discogenic pain, bathing the painful nerve with soothing medication.

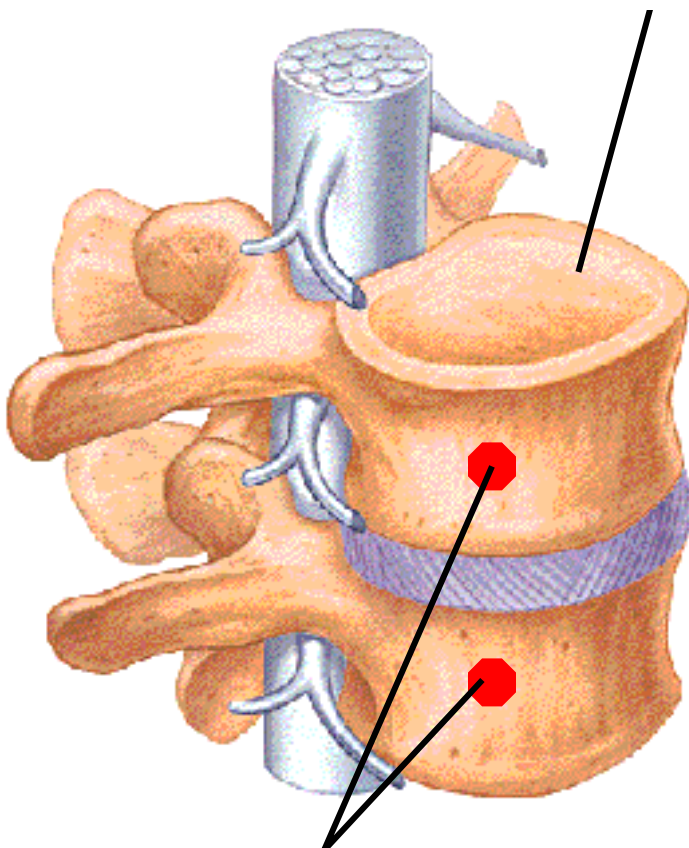
STEP 5

The needle is removed, and a small band-aid will be used to cover the tiny needle surface wound.



Injection is performed above and below the level of painful disc

Vertebral body



The gray ramus communications nerve is located at the mid juncture of the vertebral body.