

## Facet Nerve Blocks

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- [What is a facet nerve block?](#)

A facet nerve block is a diagnostic test to determine if your pain is being caused by the facet nerves. A facet nerve block is the injection of a small amount of local anesthetic and steroid medicine near the facet joint. Facet joints are on the side of your spine, not near the spinal cord.

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- [Why is an facet nerve block performed?](#)

A facet nerve block is performed if your doctor suspects that your neck, thoracic or low back pain may be caused by the small facet joints of the spine.

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- [What happens during the procedure?](#)

You will be placed on the table in the prone position (face down) in the procedure room. The appropriate area of your neck or back will be cleansed with an antiseptic solution and your skin will be numbed. The doctor will use fluoroscopy (a special x-ray) to guide the placement of thin needles to the area of the facet joints. After correct needle placement is confirmed by fluoroscopy, a small amount of a local anesthetic/steroid solution will be injected.

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- [How long does the procedure take?](#)

About 15 to 20 minutes.

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- [Contraindications to the procedure](#)

Bleeding problems, infections at the site.

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- [Special care afterward:](#)

Band-Aid will be applied to the injection site. You will be taken to the observation area. A nurse will take your blood pressure, pulse and respirations. You will be required to stay at least 30 minutes. The nurse will review your discharge instructions with you and then you will be able to go home. If your pain is coming from the facet area, your pain should be at least partially relieved

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