

Spinal Surgery - Injection of Therapeutic Substance Around Spinal Nerve Root

Introduction

The COVID pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS' ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would like and that it is not always possible to say when treatment will take place. This document provides our patients with information on how you can support yourself while waiting for treatment at the hospital. The guidance has been written by the clinicians who are responsible for your care.

The aim of spinal injections is to ease leg or back pain and in some cases both. They can also be done to help identify the main source of pain. The chance of an injection giving you satisfactory improvement of your symptoms is 60-65%

Guidance for Patients

Whilst waiting for your injections, you should continue with the pain medication that you been prescribed by your GP. If you are struggling with your pain management whilst waiting for your injection then you should contact your GP for further assistance.

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If your pain is deteriorating, then please contact your consultant's secretary on the number below.

Many patients have a combination of back, leg pain, leg numbness and weakness. These symptoms can be distressing for patients but don't necessarily require emergency medical attention.

A rare but serious condition, called Cauda Equina Syndrome, can lead to permanent damage or disability. A patient with Cauda Equina Syndrome would require emergency surgery to minimise the risk of permanent problems. As such, should you develop any of the following warning signs of Cauda Equina Syndrome you should seek urgent medical attention.

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Cauda Equina Syndrome Warning Signs

- Loss of feeling/pins and needles between your inner thighs or genitals
- Numbness in or around your back passage or buttocks
- Altered feeling when using toilet paper to wipe yourself
- Increasing difficulty when you try to urinate
- Increasing difficulty when you try to stop or control your flow of urine
- Loss of sensation when you pass urine
- Leaking urine or recent need to use pads
- Not knowing when your bladder is either full or empty
- Inability to stop a bowel movement or leaking
- Loss of sensation when you pass a bowel motion
- Change in ability to achieve an erection or ejaculate
- Loss of sensation in genitals during sexual intercourse

Contact Us

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