

**DEPARTMENT OF DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE
SECTION OF NEURORADIOLOGY**

**PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET
Lumbar Facet Joint Cyst Aspiration with Fluoroscopy**

Indications for the Procedure: This procedure is a treatment to reduce the size of a cyst in a lower back joint, which is causing back and/or leg pain.

Description of the Procedure: The patient is placed on his/her stomach on the X-ray table. The skin of the back is cleaned with an antiseptic which contains iodine. Next, the skin and deeper tissues of the lower back are numbed, using a small needle to inject lidocaine, an anesthetic drug. With X-ray guidance, a thin needle is placed into the cyst of the joint of the lower back. A small amount of dye (contrast medium) is injected through the needle into the cyst to confirm the correct location of the needle. X-ray pictures may be taken of this location. Then, all (or as much as possible) of the fluid is removed from the cyst through the needle. At the end of the procedure, the needle is withdrawn from the back and the tiny, temporary puncture mark is covered with a Band-Aid. The patient is either observed in the X-ray department for 1-2 hours or returned to his or her hospital room for observation.

Risks of the Procedure: Serious complications from this procedure are rare. There may be bleeding within or outside of the spine or at the puncture site, local infection at the puncture site or in the spine, allergic reaction to the contrast medium, injury to nerves, or continued back and/or leg pain.

Alternatives to the Procedure: The alternatives to this procedure include removal of the cyst fluid by computer tomography (CT) needle guidance or surgery on the cyst of the facet joint.

Probable Consequences of Refusing the Procedure: The patient's physician may not be able to reduce or stop the back and/or leg pain due to the cyst.

Person(s) Performing the Procedure: The key portions of the procedure will be performed by an attending physician who is a member of the medical staff of Rush University Medical Center, or a fellow or resident in Neuroradiology who will be observed and supervised by a member of the medical staff. Residents and fellows are licensed physicians. Fellows have completed a residency in radiology and are in an approved post-residency training program. Residents are in training in an approved residency program. The parts of the procedures fellows or residents will perform will be based on their level of training and competence.