

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

**PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET
Lumbar Disc Biopsy with Fluoroscopy**

Indications for the Procedure: This procedure is performed to determine if a spinal intervertebral disc is infected.

Description of the Procedure: The patient is placed on his/her stomach on the X-ray table and the skin of the back is cleaned with an antiseptic which contains iodine. Next, using a small needle, the skin and deeper tissues of the lower back are numbed with lidocaine, an anesthetic drug (numbing medicine). With X-ray guidance, a thin needle is placed into a disc in the lower part of the back. An X-ray picture may be taken to show the location of the needle in the disc. A very small amount of disc material is then removed from the disc through the needle. The material is sent to the laboratory for analysis to determine if there is an infection. This procedure is repeated for other discs, if requested by the patient's doctor. After the disc(s) has/have been biopsied, the needle(s) are removed and the tiny puncture mark or marks on the back is/are covered with one or more Band-Aids. 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 the disc, within or outside of the spine; local infection at the puncture site; or injury to nerves.

Alternatives to the Procedure: The alternatives to this procedure include needle biopsy of the disc with computer tomography (CT) guidance or surgery for removal of disc material.

Probable Consequences of Refusing the Procedure: The physician may not be able to adequately determine if there is a disc infection which, in turn, may affect treatment.

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.