

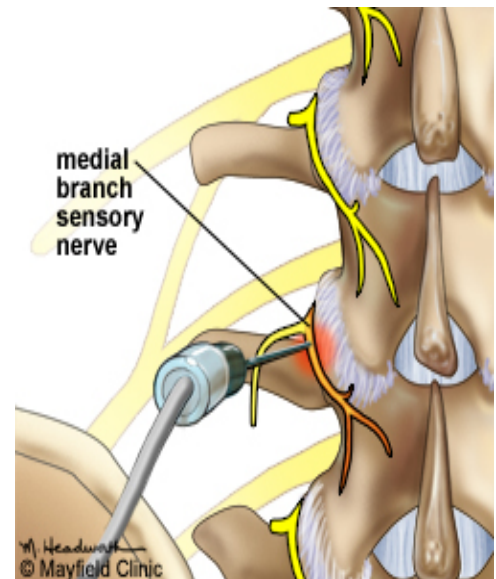
WHAT TO EXPECT: MEDIAL BRANCH BLOCKS

PURPOSE: This injection assesses if the facet joints are the pain generator. This is accomplished with using local anesthetic only and providing a patient with a pain log to see if the relief lasts the appropriate time. This step must be performed before the radiofrequency denervation can be considered. This is a diagnostic test.

- The recommended injection can be used either to help diagnose your condition or for treatment. As a general rule, we use local anesthetic, not IV sedation for our procedures as sedation involves additional risk. Most people can drive after the procedure.
- *Appointments are scheduled for injections only. If there are other medical issues that you would like to discuss with your provider, please schedule a separate follow up appointment.*

PROCEDURE: This injection is performed in our procedure suite at our office.

- **Local Anesthetic Injected:**
The skin and tissue overlying the region is numbed with a local anesthetic delivered through a small needle.
- **Needle Positioned:**
After the skin and tissues are numb, using x-ray guidance (fluoroscopy), your doctor guides a needle close to the irritated nerves in the spine.
- **Contrast Dye Injected:**
Contrast dye is injected into the space to make sure the needle is properly positioned.
- **Anesthetic Injected:**
Anesthetic is injected at the appropriate site
- **End Of Procedure:**
The needle is removed and a small bandage is applied. The patient may stay in our office until they feel comfortable to leave.



A pain log is provided for the patient to complete over the rest of the day. This will be reviewed and assessed for radiofrequency candidacy at the next appointment.