

Medical Imaging patient information

Screening:

Lumbar Puncture – Intrathecal Methotrexate Injection

What is this procedure?

A lumbar puncture is a procedure used to withdraw cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) from the spinal canal or to check CSF pressure.

Methotrexate is a chemotherapy drug and is injected into the cerebrospinal fluid surrounding the spinal cord as part of chemotherapy treatment.

What preparation is required?

You do not need to fast for this procedure. Continue taking any medication and if you need a sip of water to assist, you may do so.

You will need to arrange for someone to drive you to and from this appointment, or arrange transport. Please ask reception staff if you need help to assist with this.

You will be required to remove all clothing and any jewellery. You will be asked to change into a hospital gown.

What is involved?

You will be asked to lie on your side with your knees bent up close to your chest. Alternatively, you might be asked to lie on your stomach resting on a firm pillow or foam block. This helps to straighten your spine and open up the joint space.

This is a sterile procedure so the radiologist will get changed into a gown and wear gloves and a mask. Your back will be washed with an antiseptic liquid and might also need to be shaved if there is a lot of hair.

The radiologist will give you an injection of local anaesthetic into the skin to help numb the area. A spinal needle will then be gently inserted into the spinal canal.

Post procedure

Following this procedure, you will be taken to the recovery area in Medical Imaging. You will need to lie flat for up to 4 hours after the procedure. Nursing staff will look after you until you are ready to be discharged. You may experience some numbness or tingling down your legs.

You will need to make arrangements to get home, either with a family member or taxi. It is recommended that you not to return to work until the next day.

How long will this take?

The procedure will take approximately 45 minutes, and recovery is generally up to 4 hours.

How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **If a priority report is requested it will be issued within two hours and faxed or emailed to your doctor, however this can sometimes take up to 24 hours.**

If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available for you to take to your doctor.

How much will this cost?

Please speak with the receptionist when making your booking regarding the cost.

Please note:

If you are or think you may be pregnant or if you are breast-feeding, please tell the staff when you make your booking for the test. It is important to bring with you your referral, previous X-rays or other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or MIA).

For an appointment or if you have any questions about the test please call **9508 1444**