

Lumbar Puncture

Description

A lumbar puncture, also known as a spinal tap, is a test to evaluate the fluid (cerebrospinal fluid) surrounding your brain and spinal cord. A lumbar puncture is performed by inserting a needle into the lumbar (small of the back) portion of the patient's back.

What does the equipment look like?



Examples of the Table, Fluoroscopic Image Intensifier, and Overhead X-ray Tube.

Reasons for having a Lumbar Puncture

A lumbar puncture is most commonly performed to biopsy fluid helping diagnose a disease. It can also be done to treat diseases; as a way of administering antibiotics, cancer drugs, or anesthetic agents into the spinal canal. Spinal fluid is sometimes removed by lumbar puncture for the purpose of decreasing spinal fluid pressure in patients with uncommon conditions. It can also be used to image vessels of the brain called a fistulagram.

How do I prepare for a Lumbar Puncture?

Please leave your jewelry and valuables at home. Please wear comfortable clothing with no metal or zippers to the exam. You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and to wear a gown during the exam. You may also be asked to remove jewelry, eyeglasses and any metal objects or clothing that might interfere with the x-ray images.

- Appointment to be set up by ordering physician's office only.
- All appointments will be scheduled for the afternoon.
- Patient must be driven to and from their appointment
- Faxed orders must include diagnosis and if needed any labs that will be sent on the specimen.
- Patient is to have labs 2-3 days prior to the lumbar puncture, which includes: CBC, BMP, PT, PTT.
- Patient must be able to lie prone (face down, on stomach).
- If patient is over 400lbs. let us know.

Any questions, do not hesitate to call (626) 397-5139