

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PROCEDURE

PULSED RADIOFREQUENCY

How we do the procedure

If you received temporary, significant pain relief after two or more nerve blocks, you are a candidate for **Pulsed Radiofrequency** (inactivating specific sensory nerves-not nerves that control movement). We perform the procedure with special needles connected to a Radionics 3C radiofrequency generator. The generator is used to make the tip of the needle "pulse" to turn off the nerve. By using our fluoroscope (x-ray) machine, we can precisely place the needles to ensure that there is the absolute minimum risk of harm to you. The nerves are tested at each stage of the procedure to ensure that sensory nerves are treated, not motor nerves. Paralysis, numbness, and weakness are avoided by performing this testing. The nerves that are inactivated eventually become active again, but should not cause you pain at that time. During this time we can make your problem a lot better by using physical therapy and medication to keep the pain from returning. The procedure may have to be repeated.

What to expect

You will not be put to sleep for this procedure, because the doctor will be monitoring your response to his testing. He will numb the nerve with a local anesthetic before the Pulsed Radiofrequency. A steroid (NOT the kind that increases size in athletes) is injected as well to decrease any potential inflammation.

Risks

The risks include bleeding, infection and a reaction to any of the medications used for the procedure. We use sterile technique to avoid infections. If you are taking a "blood thinner" (anticoagulant), we will give you special instructions before the procedure to avoid excess bleeding.

Safety Precautions

Since your ability to drive may be impaired for a few hours, we ask that you have someone drive you home.

Injected steroids occasionally cause nervousness, difficulty sleeping, a flushed feeling (like hot flashes), an increased appetite, and elevated blood sugar or a "moon face" (rounded face) for several days.