



CT Joint Injections

Patient Information Sheet



What is a Joint Injection?

During this procedure an anti-inflammatory and a local anaesthetic are injected into the area of concern to reduce your pain and inflammation. Any joint pain can be treated with a joint injection. Typical areas are shoulders, hips and knees.



What does the procedure involve?

After consultation with our radiologist and completing a consent form, you will be positioned by our technologist. Positioning scans will be taken. Our doctors aim to be as accurate as possible so this procedure may take up to an hour. An appropriate injection site is selected, then a local anaesthetic is placed around the area of concern to numb the area. The local anaesthetic lasts for approximately 4-6 hours. You will need someone to drive you home as you may experience some weakness from the local anaesthetic. Under guidance of a Computed Tomography (CT), a needle is guided into the joint. Multiple scans may be taken to ensure accurate placement of the needle. When the Radiologist is happy with the positioning of the needle a mixture of local anaesthetic and anti-inflammatory will be injected into the joint space.



How long does a Joint Injection last?

Pain relief will vary depending on the cause and location of your pain. Pain relief can last from one to twelve months, but can also last for years.



Is any follow up required?

Upon completion you will be given a Pain Diary to assess how your pain feels over the next 10 days. Please complete this as accurately as possible and return it to your referring doctor.



What are the risks?

Some discomfort may be experienced after the local anaesthetic has worn off, however this should subside within a week. With all procedures piercing the skin, there is a small chance of infection or bleeding at the injection site. It may be required to stop any blood thinners to reduce this risk.



What costs are involved?

Joint injections under CT image guidance are bulk billed by Medicare.

Do I Need a Referral?

Yes. After receiving a referral from your GP you will be booked in by staff and asked a series of questions. We may also need to see your previous imaging. You can contact our friendly staff on 5430 3955.

