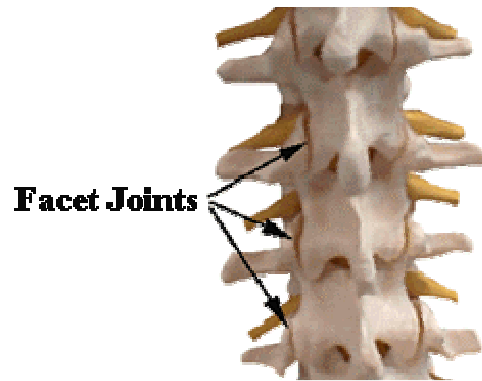


FACET JOINT BLOCK

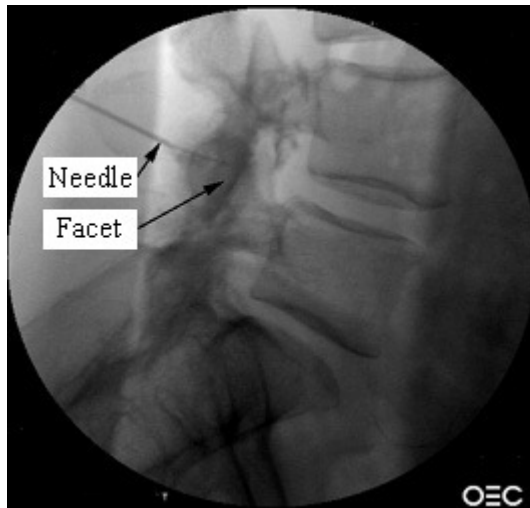


WHAT IS IT?

A block that is performed to confirm that a facet joint is the source of pain and decrease pain and inflammation in a facet joint or joints.

HOW IS IT DONE?

The patient is given a local skin anesthetic - a needle is then inserted into the facet joint or facet capsule and an anesthetic and steroid are injected by the physician. This is done under fluoroscopy.



EXPECTED RESULTS:

Decrease in or relief of back pain.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

Thirty minutes.

Blocks are done in conjunction with physical therapy.

GLOSSARY

FACET JOINTS - Joints located on the back of the spine on each side where one vertebrae slightly overlaps the adjacent vertebrae. They guide and restrict movement of the spine.

FLUOROSCOPY - X-ray imaging of a part of the body that is displayed on a screen or monitor in the block suite - this facilitates and assures proper placement of the needle and medication