

Sovereign Radiology: Facet Joint Injections



Facet Joint Injections are a CT guided interventional procedure used to treat chronic back pain. Facet joint injections can be performed in the cervical, thoracic or lumbar spines. There is good evidence that intra-articular facet joint injections can provide both short and long term symptomatic relief from back pain ¹.

These results are enhanced when combined with a pre procedure nuclear medicine bone scan and SPECT. On average patients who have had a pre procedure bone scan can expect a much more significant (3 to 4 fold) change in the pain score post procedure ².

This is principally because a nuclear medicine bone scan can more accurately target the pain contributing facet joint as opposed to clinical examination, a CT scan or MRI.

Who is it for?

- Clinically suspected facet arthropathy
- Clinically symptomatic facet arthropathy demonstrated on imaging
- Facet arthropathy demonstrated on Bone Scan and SPECT CT

Who is it not for?

Absolute contraindications

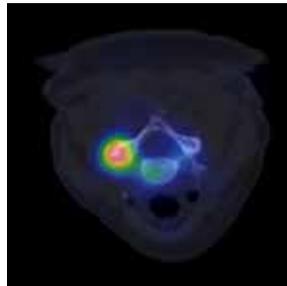
- Spinal infection
- Severe bleeding diathesis for whatever cause, including anticoagulants

Relative contraindications

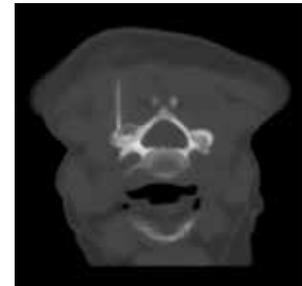
- Skin infection
- Coagulopathy
- Pregnancy

What results should I expect?

Patients can expect on average a 70% reduction in their pain score when measured on a numerical rating scale. These results can be enhanced when combined with a nuclear medicine bone scan.



Facet arthropathy on Bone scan & SPECT



CT guided Facet joint injection

OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8.30am – 5.30pm

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References

1. Manchikanti, L., Kaye, A. D., Boswell, et al. (2015). A Systematic Review and Best Evidence Synthesis of the Effectiveness of Therapeutic Facet Joint Interventions in Managing Chronic Spinal Pain. *Pain Physician*, 18(4), E535-582.
2. Pneumáticos, S. G., Chatziioannou, S. N., Hipp, J. A., Moore, W. H., & Esses, S. I. (2006). Low back pain: prediction of short-term outcome of facet joint injection with bone scintigraphy. *Radiology*, 238(2), 693-698.