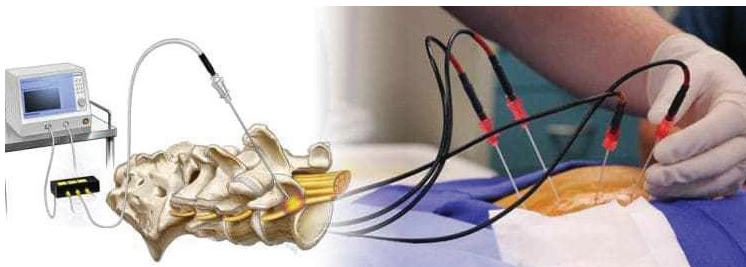


# Radiofrequency Ablation

Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) is an interventional procedure used to treat chronic pain. RFA can be used to treat a variety of conditions by disrupting the nerve signals and reducing the patient's pain. RFA can be used to treat chronic back pain due to facet arthropathy, end stage osteoarthritis, and sacroiliac joint pain.

Prior to RFA treatment a prognostic test is usually required using local anaesthetic. If the prognostic test is successful, then RFA treatment is also likely to be successful.

The procedure is performed using CT guidance and under local anaesthetic. After the administration of superficial and deep local anaesthetic, an electrode is inserted that uses heat and radiofrequency energy to destroy the nerve. The procedure takes about 30 minutes.



## Who is it for?

- Chronic pain due to facet arthropathy that has failed conservative management
- Chronic sacroiliac joint pain that has failed conservative management
- End stage osteoarthritis of the knee
- End stage osteoarthritis of the shoulder
- End stage osteoarthritis of the hip

## Who is it not for?

### Absolute contraindications

- Spinal infection
- Severe bleeding diathesis for whatever cause, including anticoagulants
- Patients with pacemakers that cannot be temporarily switched off\*

\* Requires cardiologist approval

### Relative contraindications

- Skin infection
- Coagulopathy
- Pregnancy

## What results should I expect?

- Most patients who have a successful prognostic test will have a 70 to 80% reduction in their pain
- Symptomatic relief will last for on average 12 months

## How much does it cost?

- \$495 for both private and concession patients

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