



SACROILIAC JOINT INJECTIONS

What is the sacroiliac joint and why is a sacroiliac joint injection helpful?

The sacroiliac joint is a joint in the low back/buttock area where the lumbar spine connects with the pelvis. If the joint becomes painful, it may cause pain in the low back, buttock, hip, groin or leg. A sacroiliac joint injection serves two purposes. First, if the anesthetic (numbing) medication placed into the joint causes immediate pain relief, this will help confirm the joint as a source of pain. Next, the steroid medication will help reduce inflammation within the joint and may lead to longer pain relief.

What happens during the procedure?

You will lie face down on a procedure table. The physician will use fluoroscopic (x-ray) guidance to visualize the sacroiliac joint. The physician will scrub your skin with sterile soap and place a drape on your back. The physician will numb a small area of skin with anesthetic medication. After the anesthetic has been given time to be effective, the physician will then direct a very small needle using fluoroscopic guidance into the joint. The physician will inject a small amount of contrast (dye) to insure proper needle position and then a small mixture of anesthetic and steroid into the joint.

What happens after the procedure?

Immediately after the procedure, you will go to a recovery area where you will be monitored for approximately 15 minutes. Before you are discharged home, you will be asked to rate your pain on a pain scale. You may be asked to move around and try to imitate something that would normally bring about your typical pain. Of note, your back or leg(s) may feel weak or numb for several hours after the procedure. You will not be able to drive the day of the procedure.

General Pre-op and Post-op Instructions:

- You will be scheduled at one of the facilities listed below. You will be at the facility approximately 1-1.5 hours total.
- You will be required to have a responsible adult drive you home.
- You should take your routine medications (ie. blood pressure, diabetic medications) the day of your procedure.
- You must not eat any food six hours prior to your appointment.
- You may have sips of clear liquids up to two hours prior to your appointment.
- You may want to wear loose, comfortable clothing to your appointment.
- You may return to your normal activities the day after your procedure, including returning to work.

Location of Procedures:

- Desert Spine and Sports Phoenix office: 3700 N 24th Street, Ste 210, Phoenix, AZ 85016
- Desert Spine and Sports Mesa office: 6634 East Baseline Rd Suite 101, Mesa, AZ 85206
- Desert Spine and Sports Scottsdale office: 8670 E Shea Blvd Suite 102, Scottsdale AZ 85260

If you need to reschedule this appointment, please give 24 hours notice and call **602-840-0681**.