

# **RADIOFREQUENCY THERMOCOAGULATION & PULSED ELECTROMAGNETIC FREQUENCY**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

***What is radiofrequency? Radiofrequency is a safe, proven means of interrupting pain signals. Radiofrequency (RF) needles generate local heat at the tip when electrical current is applied. Radiofrequency current can be used to heat up a small volume of nerve tissue with a minimum of surrounding tissue damage. The procedure can be performed with little trauma using local anesthesia and intravenous sedation.***

***How long does the procedure take? The actual injection takes only about 45 minutes ; however the total time you are at the hospital or other facility can be 3-5 hours***

***What is actually injected? Your doctor will inject a local anesthetic as well as steroids to help reduce swelling from the procedure. The procedure's success will depend upon the radiofrequency of the nerves not the medication injected.***

***Will I be sedated for this procedure? Yes. This procedure is done under local anesthesia. Most of the patients also receive other medications which make the procedure easier to tolerate. The amount of sedation given generally depends upon patient tolerance.***

***How is the injection performed? The appropriate site is located by using fluoroscopy and a nerve stimulator is turned on to look for movement in the area of the needle. Afterwards, the needle electrode is heated in order to break down the nerve tissue.***

***What should I expect after the injection? You may be sore around the injection site.***

***What should I do after the procedure? You will need a ride home. You may be sore around the injection site. Moist heat and massage may also help. You may also notice an increase in pain for the first 5-14 days, this is normal. Make sure to take pain medicines as prescribed. We advise the patients to take it easy for a day or so after the procedure. Perform activities as tolerated.***

***Can I go to work the next day? You can return to work within a few days.***

***How long will the effect of the procedure last? A RFTC will not provide a permanent cure as the nerve fiber will regenerate within 12 -24 months. The procedure may have to be repeated if the pain returns.***

***What are the risks and side effects? As with any procedure there are risks, side effects, and possibility of complications. The most common side effect is pain-which is temporary. For other risks please speak with a nurse in the office.***

**Note: This procedure cannot be performed if you have an active infection, flu, cold, fever, or very high blood pressure. Please make us aware of these conditions.**

**We hope this information helps.**

**Please feel free to contact us for any additional concerns you might have**