

Fluoroscopic Guided Lumbar Puncture - A Patients Guide

What is a fluoroscopic guided lumbar puncture?

A fluoroscopic guided lumbar puncture is an X-ray procedure to remove fluid (CSF) from the spinal canal.

How do I prepare for my examination?

No preparation is required for this examination.

Please be aware that you will need to stay in the hospital for 3hrs after the lumbar puncture.

We suggest you arrange for someone to be available to collect you.

You may wish to bring a dressing gown with you.

What happens when I arrive?

On arrival in the X-ray department, you will be asked to change into a gown. Your clothes will be placed in a bag and brought with you to the examination room.

When the time comes for your procedure, you will be taken into the x-ray room.

You must tell your radiographer about any medicines you are taking and if you have any allergies. If you are a woman of childbearing age, you will be asked if there is any chance you may be pregnant.

What does it involve?

The Radiologist will talk to you about exactly what is going to happen. A Radiographer and nurse will also be present.

You will either be asked to lie on your side with your knees pulled up or sit on the x-ray couch with your legs over the side and lean forward.

The Radiologist will then clean your back and insert a needle into the spinal canal in the lower back. They will then check the needle position using x-rays. Some fluid is then drawn off. You may experience mild discomfort during the procedure.

How will I get my results?

The results will go back to the referring consultant.

How long will it take?

The whole procedure should take around 30 minutes.

After the examination

You will be transferred to a ward for 3 hours and stay lying flat. After this you will be allowed home. You should avoid physical activity and driving for 24 hours. Also drink plenty of fluids.

Are there any side effects or after effects?

You may experience a headache and slight bruising at the puncture site. There is also a small risk of infection.