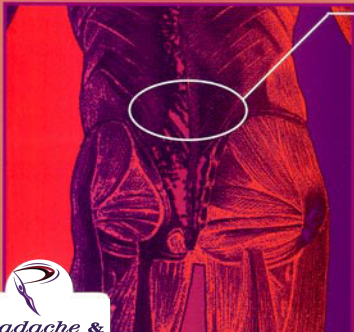


## TRIAL OF EPIDURAL OR SPINAL MORPHINE

**Definition:** This procedure involves injecting a small amount of preservative-free morphine or other pain relieving medications into the epidural space or spinal fluid. This serves as a test or trial to see if an implanted pump for pain relief (morphine pump) can be utilized in controlling someone's pain. This will involve an injection under an x-ray machine (c-arm fluoroscopy unit) to assure this medication reaches the appropriate level in the spine and nerves which are causing pain.

**Reasons for Treatment:** An implanted morphine pump is usually used to treat cancer pain or chronic pain (pain that has been ongoing for greater than six months) that is non-responsive to other treatment modalities, such as physical therapy, injections, chiropractic therapy, and surgery. Usually, patients that respond to this trial are referred for permanent implantation of the machine pump which will require that the pump be refilled through the skin every few months. Replacement of the pump may be required every five to ten years.

**Procedure:** The skin will be cleansed with an antiseptic solution, the procedure will be performed with small epidural needle, and a small intravenous catheter will be placed if you desire sedation. There may be times during the procedure that you remember, but generally, it is not painful. The skin and underlying tissue will be anesthetized with a local anesthetic (numbing medication). The x-ray machine will be used to place needles into the epidural space or spinal fluid, and a small amount of contrast (dye) will be used to confirm that morphine or another medication is placed precisely. You will be discharged a few hours after observation in the recovery area to make sure you are comfortable and have no undesired effect following this procedure. Any pain following this procedure should subside in hours to days, and ice should be placed on the injection site for fifteen minutes every hour. Our physicians are on call twenty-four hours a day. If you have a problem, please contact Headache and Pain Center.



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