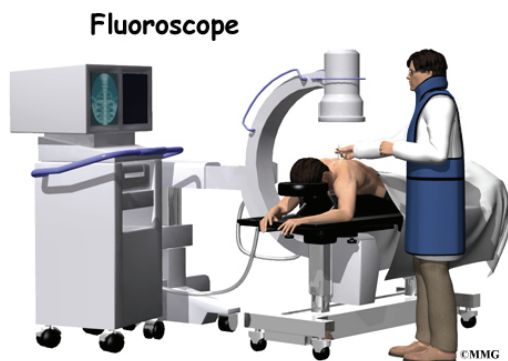


## What is a facet joint injection?

Facet joint injections are injections of corticosteroids and/or local anesthetics into the facet joint of the spine. This joint is a place of contact between one vertebrae and another. Under guidance of an x-ray machine (fluoroscopy), the needle is placed around and sometimes in the facet joint. The medicine is then injected into the space.

The choice of medication will depend on the reason for the injection. If the procedure is being performed for diagnostic reasons, as if to see if another procedure would be helpful, a local anesthetic only will be injected. If the procedure is to decrease known inflammation, a corticosteroid and local anesthetic will be injected.



**Trinity Health System**  
Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

**Dr. Suresh Srinivasan**

3150 Johnson Road, 2nd Floor  
Steubenville, OH 43952

4100 Johnson Road  
Steubenville, OH 43952

trinityhealth.com  
740.314.5138

 **Trinity Health System**

# Facet Joint Injections

 **Trinity Health System**  
Orthopedics & Sports Medicine



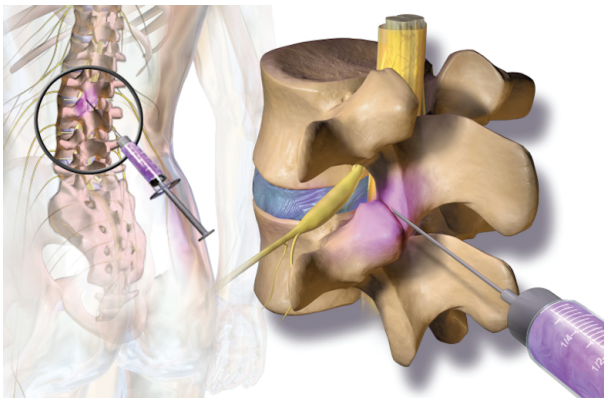
## Why am I getting a facet injection?

Facet injections are recommended for patients that have inflammation of the facet joint or the nerves around the facet joint.

### Pain in or round the facet joint can be caused by:

- Facet joint syndrome
- Facet joint arthritis
- Degenerative changes in the joint
- Injury to the facet joint

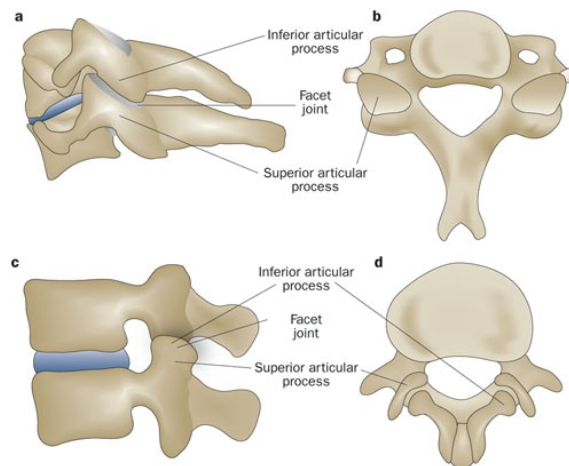
Injections can be either diagnostic or therapeutic. Diagnostic injections will help the doctor know if another procedure would be beneficial. Therapeutic injections should help to take away the pain.



## Anatomy

Facet joints are located between each vertebrae from the cervical spine to the lumbar spine. These joints are where one vertebrae articulates with another.

Arthritis and degenerative changes can occur at these joints causing inflammation to the nerve around the joint or the joint itself.



## Complications

As with any procedure, complications can occur, although they are rare. Of these complications, the most common would be a temporary increase of pain near the injection site. If this occurs, apply ice to the area on the day of the procedure. If the pain persists, apply moist heat to the area. Another complication that can occur but that is rare is a headache.

Serious complications are very uncommon but may include bleeding, infection, or nerve damage. If pain continues to increase, contact your doctor. If you experience severe pain, fever, redness, or swelling around the injection site, have someone take you to the nearest emergency room to be evaluated for possible procedure complications or infection.

## Expectations

The relief given by local anesthetics will wear off in several hours after the procedure. The duration of relief from the steroid varies from person to person. Expect to return to normal activities and work the day after the procedure.