



Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Joint Aspiration/Injection in IR

How should I prepare for this procedure?

- You may eat and drink as normal prior to this procedure.
- For Gainesville procedures, you will need to arrive an hour and a half before your scheduled appointment time. For Braselton procedures, you will need to arrive an hour to an hour and a half before your scheduled appointment time. For Barrow procedures, you will need to arrive an hour before your scheduled appointment time.
- A nurse from the Interventional Radiology department will reach out to you via phone the day before your procedure.
- For your safety, you must have a caregiver or responsible adult with you to drive you home after your procedure. Due to the effects of anesthesia, sedation, or other post-procedural effects, you will not be able to drive yourself. Additionally, the responsible adult accompanying you will assume responsibility for you upon discharge. This person should be someone who can provide support and care as needed while you recover.

What should I expect when I arrive?

- For Gainesville, you will go to the registration department in the Blue tower of the hospital. When you arrive in the main lobby of the Blue tower, go down the hallway on your left. The registration department is located on the right. Labs will be drawn here if necessary.
- For Braselton, you will go in through the main entrance and check in at the desk. You will be directed to registration from there. Labs will be drawn here if necessary.
- For Barrow, you will go to the registration desk located inside the main entrance of the hospital.
- After registration, you will go to the radiology waiting room. A staff member will show you back to the Interventional Radiology department. Your driver can accompany you back to the prep area.
- A provider and nurse will explain the procedure, go over discharge instructions, and decide what medications can be safely given. An IV for medication administration will be placed if necessary.
- When it is time to go to the IR lab for your procedure, your driver will be shown to the waiting room.

What medications will be offered during this procedure?

- In most cases, no medications are offered for this procedure. In certain cases, pain management is offered. Medications offered will be dependent on the provider's discretion on the day of your procedure. Pain management is intended to help with any discomfort experienced during the procedure. You will be awake for this procedure.
- The medication most commonly used for pain management is Fentanyl.

What should I expect during my procedure?

- When it is time for your procedure, your nurse will take you to the procedure area.



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- Your provider will position you for the injection and locate the injection site over your joint. The procedure will be paged to the procedure room when your nurse and tech are ready.
- The skin over the joint will be cleaned with a soap that kills germs.
- Your provider will inject a local anesthetic under the skin above your joint.
- The needle will be placed through your skin into your joint.
- A special dye called a contrast dye may be injected to check that the needle is in the correct location.
- For an injection:
 - The steroid medicine will be injected into your joint.
 - Anesthetic may be injected along with the steroid. This may be a medicine that relieves pain.
- For an aspiration:
 - Fluid will be removed and sent for analysis if your physician orders labs.
- The needle will be removed, and a bandage may be placed over the injection site.

What should I expect after my procedure?

- Minor discomfort may be present that should be controllable by over-the-counter medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc.) or whatever you normally take for pain at home. No pain medication prescriptions will be provided on discharge. Any significant pain post-procedure would warrant a trip to the ER or a call to the ordering physician.
- Recovery time is up to the provider's discretion. You will be discharged home after your recovery time is complete.