

## How do I take care of myself at home?

### Needle site care

Remove the bandage on the needle site the day after your procedure.

You can shower. **Do not** take a bath, go swimming, or use hot tub for next 48 hours.

### Activity at home

Rest today. You can return to your daily activities the next day.

For the next 24 hours, **you are not allowed to drive or do any strenuous activities.**

### When to get help

Contact your doctor or specialist if you have any of the following:

- fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, chills
- any local pain, swelling, and/or redness around the needle site
- severe pain not controlled by over-the-counter medicine, your usual pain medicine, or other ways you have managed the pain in the past
- weakness in your legs

## Locations

**Lions Gate Hospital** 604-984-5775  
Medical Imaging, Lower Level  
231 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, North Vancouver

**Royal Columbian Hospital** 604-520-4640  
Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower  
330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminister

**Surrey Memorial Hospital** 604-588-3308  
Medical Imaging, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Lower Level  
13750 96<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Surrey

**Vancouver General Hospital** 604-875-4111  
Interventional Radiology, Jim Pattison Pavilion Ext 68612  
Station 4, Ground Floor, 855 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver

## HealthLinkBC 8-1-1

Call any time you have any questions or concerns. HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours. Available in 130 languages. For an interpreter, say your language in English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.

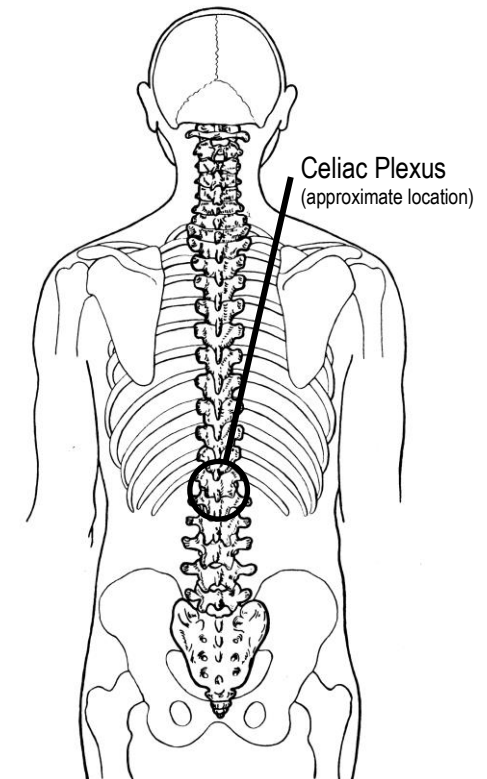
[www.fraserhealth.ca](http://www.fraserhealth.ca) ♦ [www.vch.ca](http://www.vch.ca)

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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# Celiac Plexus Block



Pearson Scott Foresman [Public domain] / Wikimedia Commons

## What is a Celiac Plexus Block?

This procedure helps ease abdomen (belly) pain caused from such things as cancer or chronic pancreatitis. The celiac (or solar) plexus is a bundle of nerves in the upper abdomen near the aorta (main artery in your abdomen). The nerves send pain messages from your abdomen to your brain. Blocking these nerves can help ease the pain.

The procedure could be done in 1 or 2 visits. During the first visit, we inject a small amount of numbing medicine similar to dental freezing (anesthetic) around the nerve bundle. If it works to ease your pain, you might return to have the nerve permanently blocked.

## Who does the procedure?

An interventional radiologist does the procedure (a doctor who specializes in image-guided procedures using CT scanning, fluoroscopy, and ultrasound).

If you have questions about the procedure, you can ask the interventional radiologist before your procedure.

## Can I bring a relative/friend?

Yes, a relative or friend can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for safety reasons, they cannot be in the room with you during the procedure.

**You must arrange for a responsible adult to drive or escort you home after this procedure.**

## What do I need to do to prepare for this?

Our Medical Imaging Department contacts you with specific instructions on how to prepare for this procedure.

## What happens during the procedure?

You lie face down on the x-ray table.

The radiologist:

- Locates the spot where the injection will go.
- Cleans the area with antiseptic.
- Injects numbing medicine to freeze the skin around the area.
- Guides the needle as close as possible to the nerve causing pain using x-ray images. It is important to lie as still as possible. Tell us if you have any pain.
- Injects anesthetic into the area around the nerve.
- Places a small bandage over the area when the procedure is complete.

## Will it hurt?

It might sting or burn as the numbing medicine is injected into your skin.

During the procedure, you might get a warm feeling in your abdomen. If you have pain or discomfort that is similar to the pain you normally experience, it tells us this is the nerve causing your pain. As the anesthetic around the nerve takes effect, you should start to feel some relief from your pain.

## How long will it take?

The procedure takes about 30 minutes.

## What happens after the procedure?

We move you to a recovery area to rest for 1 hour. We check your muscle function and sensation before you leave.

## Are there any risks or complications?

You could have some bruising and soreness the needle site. Any time the skin is pierced or cut, there is a chance of infection.

Side effects include:

- low blood pressure
- diarrhea

Serious but rare complications include:

- injury to blood vessels or nerves
- injury to kidneys
- collapsed lung
- allergic reaction to medications used

## How will this change my pain?

The skin freezing usually wears off in the first 24 hours. You will feel some numbness in your abdomen. You might also have some numbness and/or weakness in the upper legs.

Most people feel some relief from the pain after the procedure. The effect of the block can last several days to several months.

Your back might feel sore for a few days in the area around where the needle when through the skin.