



## **CELIAC PLEXUS, SPLANCHNIC, OR HYPOGASTRIC NERVE BLOCK**

As part of your treatment at Premier Pain Consultants, your doctor will perform one of the above procedures. The purpose of this procedure is to decrease pain and to increase circulation in the area of your pain. This is done by injecting a local anesthetic into an area where a group of nerves that services the internal abdominal or pelvic organs comes together. When circulation is increased, more oxygen and nourishment are brought to the area. The duration of pain relief from this local anesthetic can vary from 1-2 hours to many hours. If your pain is relieved by this procedure, a series of blocks may be desired as an attempt to break the pain cycle.

**General Pre/Post-Injection Instructions** – Be sure to tell your doctor if you have any allergies, particularly to contrast dye or Betadine. Patients cannot eat 8 hours before the procedure. Patients may take their routine medications (i.e., high blood pressure), except for insulin. You may take half of your normal insulin dose the day of the procedure and monitor your blood sugar. Patients should not take pain medications or anti-inflammatory medications the day of their procedure. Patients must be in pain prior to this procedure. They may not take medications that relieve or lessen their usual pain. These medicines can be restarted after the procedure if they are needed. The doctor must be notified if a patient is on Coumadin (blood thinner). **A driver must accompany the patient and be responsible for getting him/her home or your procedure will be cancelled.**

**What happens during the procedure?** A physician will explain this nerve block and possible complications. A written consent will be obtained prior to the procedure. An intravenous line may be started on you. You will be lying on your stomach during the procedure and your heartbeat and blood pressure will be monitored very closely. All measures will be taken to make you as comfortable as possible. The procedure itself takes approximately 30 minutes and you will be observed for approximately 30 minutes in the recovery room.

**The physician will use an x-ray machine during this procedure. If you are pregnant, it is important to inform your physician.**

**What happens after the procedure?** The following may occur after the injection: dizziness, leg weakness, numbness, warmth in leg or legs, and back pain from needle insertion. These effects are temporary, lasting only a few hours. Other possible side effects include infection, bleeding or nerve damage.

**No driving is allowed on the day of the procedure. You must bring someone to drive you home after the procedure.**