To Your Health!

Lumbar Puncture - Outpatient

Your doctor has ordered a Lumbar Puncture to be conducted in the Fluoroscopy Department on the 2nd level of the Froedtert Hospital.

Appointment Information

Time: ______________ If you are not able to keep your appointment, please call (414) 805-3700.

Date: ______________

If you are pregnant (or think you may be pregnant), or if you are nursing a baby, please inform your doctor before your appointment is scheduled.

WHAT IS A LUMBAR PUNCTURE?

A Lumbar Puncture is an exam where a needle is used to remove and test spinal fluid from the sac that contains your spinal cord. The spinal cord runs through most of your spine and carries messages between your brain and the rest of your body. A lumbar puncture is done near the base of your spine. The needle enters the sac but does not touch the spinal cord.

BEFORE THE EXAM

Have clear liquids only, the morning of the exam.

On the day of your examination, please bring with you a list of your allergies. You **must** bring all medication with you that you are presently taking. The technologist will request these items at the time of your examination, and you may need to take them while you are in recovery.

DURING YOUR EXAM

You will be placed on an x-ray table on your stomach for your Lumbar Puncture. A local anesthetic will be used to numb the area where a needle will be inserted into your spine. Usually a small amount of spinal fluid is removed. The needle is removed.

The radiologist may change your position or tilt the table that you are on during the Lumbar Puncture. You will have the chance to talk with the radiologist about any questions you may have.

AFTER THE EXAM

It is very important to drink plenty of fluids after your Lumbar Puncture. This will help to decrease any side effects you may experience. After the exam, your diet will depend on how you feel. Usually a liquid diet is best.

You will be required to stay at the hospital for a 2-3 hour recovery time. The head of your bed will be raised during this time. A CAT (CT) scan may also be done during the recovery time. (A CT scan is a procedure that uses x-rays to show your spinal structures in a cross-section view. The CT scan requires that you lie on your back on the CT table. The table moves you to the correct location in the scanner for additional images of your spinal canal, using the dye that was administered during your Lumbar Puncture.)

You will need to make prior arrangements for a ride home after the proper recovery time. You will not be permitted to drive that day. When you get home, rest flat in bed for the rest of the day. You may get up to use the bathroom.

9200 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53226-3596
Telephone: 414-805-3666

RADIOLoGY
(414) 805-3700
SIDE EFFECTS
Some temporary symptoms that you may experience include headache, backache or stiffness, and/or nausea or vomiting. The radiologist will discuss with you other potential but rare side effects.

Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment. To park, enter the campus on 92nd street and go to Parking Area 1. Take the A elevators to enter the hospital lobby on the second floor. Follow the signs to Fluoroscopy and check-in at the reception desk.
Directions to Froedtert Hospital Entrance

Please park in the Parking Area 1 structure.

From Watertown Plank Road:
Turn south on 92nd street and continue through a stop light at West Connell Court. Turn left at the Froedtert Hospital Entrance, a circular drive. Follow signs directing you to the Parking Area 1 structure.

From Wisconsin Avenue:
Turn north on 92nd Street and then right at the Froedtert Hospital Entrance, a circular drive. Follow signs directing you to the Parking Area 1 structure.

Once Parked:
Please Note: All of our parking structures and surface lots have accessible parking closest to building entrances. Entrances from our parking structures are all equipped with power doors. For more detailed information visit froedtert.com (Locations & Directions, Transportation and Parking Services).

Questions? Call 414-805-3666 or visit froedtert.com

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