



Diagnostic Injections for Pain Management: Video Transcript

Dr. Jason Peragine (00:12):

I am Jason Peragine. I'm one of the pain management physicians here at Neurosurgery one. Some of the injections that we do are to help people feel better. Some of the injections we do are strictly diagnostic. A diagnostic injection is one that is used just for information about the source of the patient's pain.

What is a diagnostic injection? (00:30):

So a diagnostic injection might be used to help in a patient's case where they have multiple levels of say, pinched nerves in their back, and they're considering even the possibility of a surgery that that surgery might encompass three or four levels of the spine through the use of some very specific injections. Maybe just targeting one nerve root level at a time, we can determine which of those multiple regions of pinched nerve are the most symptomatic and the most worthy of a surgery, and maybe even help the surgeon narrow down the scope of their surgery to a smaller area, which will be easier to recover from.

What is the process for receiving the injections? (01:10):

Diagnostic injections and therapeutic injections are all done under fluoroscopy, so we can see the structure we're injecting and under live fluoroscopy guide the needle exactly to the right spot. Almost all of our patients are sedated for all of our procedures done in the surgical center through some IV propofol, which makes sure that people are relaxed and comfortable during their procedure. More importantly, it helps that they don't move much. And the important thing about using propofol is that it doesn't contain any pain killing properties so that any pain relief a patient has from their injection is a result of what we've done in their spine, not from a bunch of pain medications coursing through their veins.

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