

- Muscle spasm at the area of injection

What you should know

- There is no guarantee that it will help you.
- There is the small risk of infection at the injection site.
- Please do not eat anything for 6 hours prior to your procedure. You can drink clear fluids such as water, squash or black tea.

Please bring your usual medications with you to your appointment. If you take anticoagulants please call the Pain Clinic on 01225 82 4331 for advice, as you will need to stop taking them prior to your procedure.

What follow-up will be arranged?

- The team will discuss any follow up with you.
- Usually you will be contacted by the Pain Team 4-6 weeks after your procedure.
- If you have any questions/ concerns you can contact the Pain Team.
- To leave patient experience feedback please go online to www.ruh.nhs.uk/FFT

More in-depth patient information is available: www.fpm.ac.uk/about-pain-medicine-patients-relatives/patient-information-leaflets

References: Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Royal College of Anaesthetists. www.fpm.ac.uk

If you have any queries please contact:

The Pain Clinic

Zone F, Department F18
RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre - Royal United Hospitals Bath

Intervention Follow-Up Advice Line: 01225 826896

(This is an Answer-phone Service, please leave a message. Phone messages are checked 14:00-15:00 Monday to Friday, we will aim to call back in 24-48 hours)

If you need advice during out-of-hours, please contact your GP or NHS111. For Emergency please dial 999.

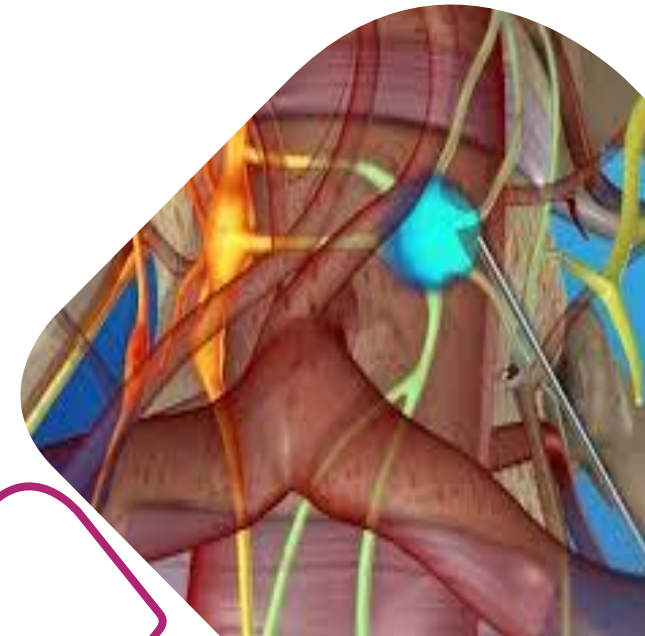
The RUH, where you matter

Royal United Hospitals Bath
NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG
01225 428331 | www.ruh.nhs.uk

Please contact the Patient Support and Complaints Team (PSCT) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Email ruh-tr.psct@nhs.net or 01225 825656.

Coeliac Plexus Block

Pain Clinic Patient Information Leaflet



Coeliac Plexus Block

Checklist

- Bring a list of all current medications
- Make arrangements for someone to collect you after the procedure
- Wear loose comfortable clothing
- Glasses (if you need them to read)
- Blood thinning medication e.g. warfarin, clopidogrel, apixaban etc. will need to be stopped prior to your injection. Please ensure you have instructions from the Pain Team on how to manage these medications prior to your appointment.

Changes to your health

Please let your doctor know if:

- You have an infection
- You have started on anticoagulant or antiplatelet medications
- You have diabetes
- You have any allergies
- You are pregnant
- You are planning to travel abroad within 2 weeks of the injections

Consent

If you have any questions before your appointment you can contact the Pain Team. **Your doctor will obtain your signed consent before the injection.**

The RUH, where you matter

What is a Coeliac Plexus Block?

A coeliac plexus block is an injection used to treat certain types of abdominal pain, often pain that has proved difficult to treat by other methods. Your doctor can give you further information about the injection and what is to be injected. The injection may be made with local anaesthetic. Most commonly it is undertaken for cancer pain using a substance to destroy nerves in the coeliac plexus using either phenol or alcohol.

The procedure

- A small needle (cannula) will be placed in the back of your hand.
- You will be required to lie prone during the procedure, usually with the support of a pillow under the abdomen. If this position is uncomfortable for you, please inform the staff before the procedure begins.
- Observations will be taken.
- The injection site will be cleaned with antiseptic solution (this can feel cold).
- An injection of local anaesthetic will be used to numb the area (this will sting).
- The doctor will direct the injections to the area(s) suspected to be causing pain. An x-ray machine may be used.
- You may feel pressure or tightness as the injection(s) are made.

Aftercare

- After the procedure you will be taken to recovery and monitored.

- You will be observed and monitor for a minimum of 4 hours after the procedure.
- Sometimes you will be asked to lay flat for about 30 minutes or longer. Ideally, you should arrange for someone to stay with you for 24 hours.
- You should not drive, operate machinery, sign legal documents, provide childcare unsupervised or drink alcohol until fit to do so.
- You may experience some soreness or aching at the injection site.
- **Please keep the area of the injection dry for 24 hours following the procedure**
- Do not worry if your pain feels worse for a few days, this sometimes happens; take your regular medications and this should settle.
- As your pain decreases, try to gently increase your exercise.
- Try not to overdo things on a good day so that you end up paying for it with more pain the following day.

Possible side effects and risks

- Complications related to a coeliac plexus block can be serious. The procedure is not recommended for patients taking blood-thinning medicines or who have an infection or bowel blockage.

Common side effects include:

- Low blood pressure (hypotension)
- Diarrhoea
- Pain, tenderness, swelling or bruising around the injection