



MERCY HEALTH

Cisternogram/Lumbar Puncture Exam Description

Description:

A cisternogram is an examination of the spinal fluid flow that surrounds the spinal cord. The patient's spinal fluid is injected with a radiopharmaceutical tracer through a lumbar puncture (spinal tap). By injecting a small amount of radioactivity into the spinal fluid, the flow of the spinal fluid from the spine into the brain can be evaluated. The progress of the tracer's diffusion through the cerebral spinal fluid or CSF will be recorded by a nuclear medicine gamma camera. Images are usually taken immediately, at 6 hours, and at 24 hours. The approximate time for the examination is 2 hours. The patient in some cases may be asked to return for 48 and 72 hour follow-up scans.

***Headaches following the procedure are common, but should fade in 3-5 days*

Prep for all Puncture Exams:

- Anti-platelet therapy (Aspirin, Plavix or Ticlid) should be discontinued 7 days prior to exam
 - N/A
- Blood thinners (Coumadin/Warfin) should be discontinued 5 days prior to exam
 - N/A
- If the patient is on thinners, Labs will have to be drawn within 24 hours of the exam if patient is on Coumadin/Warfarin or has a history of bleeding disorders to check **Prothrombin Time (PT)** and **International Normalized Ratio (INR)**. A **Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT)** is needed as well if the patient is on **Heparin**.
 - N/A

Instructions:

- Patient Medications for Heart or Blood Pressure should be taken as usual
- Patient should not eat or drink (NPO) for 6 hours prior to procedure- If patient ate or drank, check with Radiologist before canceling
- H & P performed
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you need to report opening pressures?
 - N/A
- All personnel masked during procedure

Any questions or concerns please call
Mercy Campus Radiology 231-672-3927