

Intervention to reduce pain from facet joint arthropathy

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Facet joint arthritis is a common cause of low back pain. Pain from facet joints may be referred to the buttocks, posterior thighs and calves, making it difficult to distinguish from radicular pain at times.

Radiofrequency neurotomy can be an effective intervention to reduce pain from facet joint arthropathy. Radiofrequency neurotomy uses heat generated by radial waves to target specific nerves and temporarily turn off their ability to send pain signals. Needle is inserted through the skin near the painful area delivered the radial wave to the targeted nerves. Imaging scans during radiofrequency neurotomy make sure the needles are positioned properly. Radiofrequency neurotomy is most commonly used for pain in the back, neck, buttocks. It may also be helpful for long-term shoulder, knee or hip joint pain.



Common side effects include temporary numbness or pain at the procedure site. Rarely, more serious complications may occur, including bleeding, and flexion, nerve damage. Radiofrequency neurotomy is not a permanent fix for back or neck pain. Studies on the success of treatment have been conflicting. Some people may have modest, short term pain relief, while others might feel better for several months. Sometimes, the treatment does not improve pain or function at all

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