

CONSENT FOR LUMBAR PUNCTURE

Procedure. A lumbar puncture is also called a spinal tap. It is done to test the fluid around your brain and spinal cord. This test can be used to look for signs of infection, inflammation, or cancer in the nervous system. It is also used to look for signs of bleeding in the space around the brain, or to measure pressure on the brain. Dr. _____ will perform the procedure and explain the reason for your lumbar puncture to you.

Before the procedure, your skin will be cleaned. Medicine will be used to numb a small area of skin on your lower back. Your doctor will insert a needle there. Sometimes, X-rays are used to guide the needle. Your doctor will take out some spinal fluid and collect it in tubes. Then your doctor will remove the needle. The procedure takes about 10 to 15 minutes.

Benefits. Your doctor will discuss the potential benefits of the lumbar puncture.

Risks. Lumbar punctures are safe but may have some side effects. They may include:

- **Bruising.** It's possible to break a small blood vessel near the skin during the procedure. There may be bruising. This is not a serious problem. It will go away on its own.
- **Infection.** Skin bacteria can infect the puncture site. To help prevent this, your skin is cleaned before the procedure and only sterilized tools are used.
- **Headache that gets worse.** In some cases, the lumbar puncture may cause a headache. Or it can cause a headache to get worse. When you get home, rest. Lie flat and drink plenty of fluids. This may help ease a headache if you have one. For a very small amount of people, the headache continues and needs treatment with a blood patch. This is an injection of your own blood into the puncture site.
- **Bleeding.** Minor bleeding might occur where the needle is put in the skin. This bleeding usually stops with mild pressure applied by your doctor. You also have a small risk of bleeding around the spinal canal, but this is rare. Rarely, bleeding could injure nerves or the spinal cord from pressure inside the spinal canal. If you have a condition that causes you to bleed easily or are taking blood thinners such as Aspirin or Coumadin, tell your doctor before the procedure.
- **Back pain.** You may have back pain, usually where the needle is put in the skin. This usually goes away after 1 to 2 days. You can treat it with an over-the-counter pain medicine.
- **Herniation.** Herniation means that part of the brain is compressed and damaged because of the swelling in the brain. This is extremely rare. Your doctor will make sure you have no brain swelling before doing the lumbar puncture.

There may also be unexpected risks.

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Alternatives. You may decide not to have this procedure. Your doctor can discuss alternative treatment options with you.

I have read and understand this form. All the blank spaces above have been filled in before my signing. No guarantees have been made to me about the results of the lumbar puncture. I have had an opportunity to ask any questions. All of my questions have been answered.

Patient/Agent/Surrogate/Guardian* (Signature) Date Time _____
Print Name Relationship if other than patient

Telephonic Interpreter's ID # Date Time
OR

Signature: Interpreter Date Time _____
Print: Interpreter's Name and Relationship to Patient

Witness to signature (Signature) Date Time _____
Print Witness Name

* The signature of the patient must be obtained unless the patient is an unemancipated minor under the age of 18 or lacks capacity to make medical decisions. In these cases the Agent, Surrogate or Guardian should sign.