

The UAB Pain Treatment Clinic

CELIAC PLEXUS BLOCK



Chronic Pancreatitis and Pancreatic Cancer

Pain is the major symptom in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer and chronic pancreatitis. Often this pain is treated with pain medicines.

The pain of pancreatic disease is transmitted through a network of nerves called the celiac plexus. This network is located around the aorta (the large artery in your abdomen) near the celiac artery.

This pain can be treated by placing numbing medicine (local anesthetics) with or without steroids directly on the celiac plexus. Permanent destruction of these nerves may be available for pain relief in patients with advanced stage pancreatic cancer.

The Procedure

The patient is placed on the procedure table lying face down. Sedation is given through an IV to help with relaxation. The back is cleaned with an antiseptic solution to prevent infection. Next, the skin on the back is injected with numbing medicine (local anesthetic). A needle is then placed through the back next to the celiac plexus using X-ray guidance. The medicine to block the nerve is then injected.



Side Effects and Risks

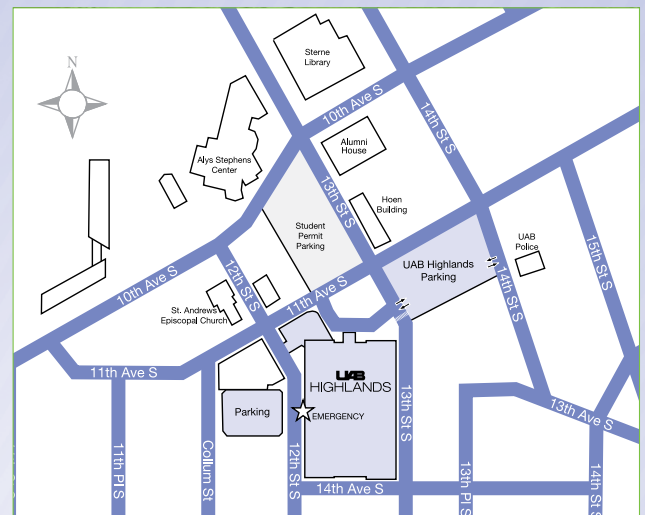
- ✓ Low blood pressure
- ✓ Soreness in back
- ✓ Watery or loose bowel movements
- ✓ Injury to major blood vessels, nerve roots, and kidney
- ✓ Pneumothorax (collapsed lung)
- ✓ Injection of medicine into bloodstream

The Day of Your Procedure

- Do not eat or drink anything for six hours before the procedure since this increases your risk of nausea and vomiting.
- Please have a driver accompany you to your appointment. Your driver must stay through the duration of your appointment. If you do not have a driver, your appointment will be rescheduled.
- Follow the directions your doctor gave you concerning your blood thinners (including Coumadin, Plavix, Lovenox, Ticlid, Pletal, and Pradaxa). They increase your risk of bleeding.
- If you are not feeling well or have been placed on antibiotics since your last appointment with us, please call us before your procedure.
- You may not be able to receive your block if you do not follow these recommendations.

After the Procedure

You will spend about 30 minutes in the recovery area where your blood pressure and other vital signs will be monitored. IV fluids may be given along with other medications for low blood pressure. There is a possibility that you may be admitted to the hospital for low blood pressure. After you recover, you will be free to go home with your driver. Any soreness in your back may be treated with over-the-counter or prescription pain medications. You should call the clinic or go to the emergency room if your pain gets worse or if there is blood in your urine.



The Pain Treatment Clinic

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- We are located on the 3rd floor of UAB Highlands.
- Entrance to the Pain Treatment Clinic is located next to the Emergency Room entrance.
- Free parking is across the street in the deck.