Glycerol Rhizotomy/Injection

For patients going home after the procedure

Read this brochure to learn about:

- What Trigeminal neuralgia is
- What to expect after this procedure
- How to take care at home

Do not drink alcohol or drive a car for 24 hours
What is glycerol rhizotomy/injection?

Glycerol rhizotomy/injection is the injection of a small amount of glycerol/alcohol into the area where the nerve comes out of the skull. This injection numbs the trigeminal nerve and helps to reduce nerve sensitivity.

What is trigeminal neuralgia?

Trigeminal neuralgia or Tic douloureux (tik doo-loo-ruh) is a painful disorder of the trigeminal nerve. The trigeminal nerve is located on both sides of the face. This disorder can cause intense, stabbing, electric shock-like pain in the areas of the face, lips, eyes, nose, scalp, forehead, upper jaw and lower jaw.

What can I eat or drink after this procedure?

You can go back to eating and drinking as usual, right away.

How much activity is safe?

- Go home and rest today.
- Then you can return to your regular activities.
- You can return to work 1 to 2 days after your procedure.

When can I shower or bathe?

You can shower or bathe 24 hours after your procedure.
How do I take care of my wound?

• Keep the bandages clean and dry.
• Remove bandages 24 hours after the procedure
• Call your surgeon if any pain or numbness has not gone away after 2 weeks.
• The small Band-Aid on the injection site can be removed 24 hours after the procedure.
• The area can be left uncovered.

You may experience these symptoms. They are normal and will last a few days:

• Tenderness and/or bruising
• Numbness
• Headache
• Feeling full
• Ringing in the ear

When can I stop taking my medication?

• Continue taking all your daily medication unless your doctor asks you not to.
• You will gradually come off your trigeminal neuralgia medication once your pain has gone away. The pain usually goes away after a week or two.
• The doctor who has prescribed this medication to you will give you a schedule explaining when and how to gradually come off your medication. If the doctor has not talked with you about this, call the doctor to make an appointment.
• Do not stop taking your medication unless your doctor asks you to.
**About pain medication:**

If you feel facial pain, take the medication that has been prescribed to you. If you do not have a prescription, call your family doctor for advice.

**Problems to watch for:**

Call your surgeon or family doctor or go to the nearest emergency department if you have:

- A fever that is higher than 38 °C or 100 °F
- Redness or irritated eye

**Follow-up appointment:**

Doctor:  
Date:  
Time:  
Location:  
Phone:  

**Special instructions:**

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