

IDET Procedures

General Post-Operative Instructions for IDET Procedures

Introduction to SpineCATH Intradiscal ElectroThermal (IDET) Therapy:

Lower back pain is one of the most common ailments affecting people at some point in their lives. For most people, the pain resolves quickly, perhaps aided by rest, therapeutic exercise or medication. But for many, the pain is a result of a disc degeneration process that is prolonged, severe, and for which conventional treatment does not provide the needed relief.

What it is:

With age or due to injury, cracks or fissures may develop in the wall of the intervertebral disc. Filled with small nerve endings and blood vessels, these fissures are a chronic source of pain in many patients. Additionally, the inner disc issue (nucleus) will frequently bulge (herniated) into these fissures in the outer region of the disc, likewise stimulating pain sensors within the disc.

SpineCATH IDET Therapy is a minimally invasive treatment in which the physician applies controlled levels of thermal energy (heat) to a broad section of the affected disc wall. This heat contracts and thickens the collagen of the disc wall. Therapy may result in contraction or closure of the disc wall fissures and a reduction in the bulge of the inner disk material.

Who May Benefit from SpineCATH IDET Therapy?

SpineCATH IDET therapy acts exclusively upon the tissues of the disc itself, and should not be expected to relieve symptoms arising from other spinal structures, such as nerve root or spinal joints. It is therefore very important for your physician to diagnose that the disc is the primary source of your back pain. In addition to a clinical examination, your physician may use Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) or injections of dye into the disc (discography) to confirm the diagnosis. Once satisfied that one or more discs are the primary source of your lower back pain, your physician may recommend SpineCATH IDET Therapy.

How the Test is Done:

SpineCATH IDET therapy is usually performed on an outpatient basis. Local anesthesia and mild sedation may be used to reduce discomfort during the procedure. You will be awake and alert so that you can provide important feedback to the physician. With the guidance of x-ray images, your physician will advance a needle into the disc. The SpineCATH catheter will be passed through the needle and into the disc.

Once it is in the appropriate position, the temperature of the heating section of the catheter will be gradually increased, raising the disc wall temperature. During the heating protocol, your physician will monitor your condition and comfort level closely. You will most probably feel a reproduction of your usual lower back pain. This is a strong indication that the heat is being applied to the appropriate areas. Once the therapy is completed, the catheter and needle are removed, and you will likely be sent home with a Band-Aid over the needle insertion site.

After the Procedure:

The discomfort generated when the disc is heated may take several days to subside, and your physician may prescribe medication. During the disc heating process, up to 12 to 16 weeks following the procedure, it is very important to treat your discs with care. Your physician will provide you with activity and physical rehabilitation guidelines. Patients report that it is during this time that they usually begin to experience relief from their lower back pain symptoms, a reduction or elimination of any medication use and an increase in their functional abilities. Improvements may continue up to six months following the procedure.

What Risks the Test Has:

SpineCATH IDET therapy, like any surgical procedure, has some risks. Not all patients will find relief for their back pain and relieved symptoms may recur over time. Please consult your physician about the risks and potential complications of SpineCATH IDET therapy. Many additional factors may prevent your physician from recommending SpineCATH IDET therapy for your condition. Such factors may include, but are not limited to, very narrow disc height, severe disc herniation, spinal instability, very advanced stages of disc degeneration, or various general health concerns. If SpineCATH IDET therapy is recommended for you, we advise you to openly discuss your treatment expectations with your physician, as he or she is best suited to ensure your expectations are reasonable given your personal condition.

Restrictions after SpineCATH IDET Procedure:

Standing and walking with pain tolerance. Avoid sitting for more than 30 minutes at a time for two weeks post IDET. No lifting more than 15 pounds for two weeks.