Baclofen Screening Test

About the test

Baclofen is a medicine. It is used to help relieve spasticity, which is tightness or stiffness of the muscles.

When baclofen tablets are taken by mouth, only a small amount of the medicine reaches the spine. With a treatment known as intrathecal baclofen therapy (IBT), a special form of baclofen is delivered directly to the fluid around the spinal cord using an implanted pump.

This test is a way for your doctor to see how well your body will respond to this form of the medicine.

Preparing for the test

Before the test:

- Talk to your doctors about your medicines. If you are on medicines that thin your blood, such as warfarin (Coumadin, Jantoven), clopidogrel (Plavix), aspirin or other products that contain aspirin, ask if you should stop these medicines before the test. **You may be told to stop these medicines up to a week before the injection to reduce your chance of bleeding.**

- Call the office if you have a cold, any type of infection, or if you may be pregnant. Your test will need to be rescheduled. The office is open Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 5:30 PM.

The day of the test:

- You may eat your normal breakfast.
- Wear loose, comfortable clothing.

Your test is scheduled at ____________ on ____________________________.

The test will be done at Ohio State’s Comprehensive Spine Center, located on the 1st floor of CarePoint East.

CarePoint East
543 Taylor Avenue
Columbus, OH 43202
614-293-2225

You will be at our center for about 6 hours. A family member or caregiver will need to stay with you during your visit.
• You may take your other prescription medicines, including oral baclofen.

• If you take other medicines during the day, please bring your medicines with you to take while you are at the center.

• Please bring a list of all your medicines to your test. Be sure to include any prescription and over the counter medicines, vitamins and herbal products you take.

• Please bring any personal, hygiene supplies you may need for the day.

• There are vending machines and a small café at CarePoint East. The staff can also help you with directions to other local food options.

**During the test**

The physical therapist will move your arms and legs to check your muscles and the degree of their spasticity.

The doctor will numb a small area of your lower back. Using a very thin needle, the doctor injects a small amount of baclofen into the space around your spine. You may feel a little sting or have no pain.

After the injection, you will be able to rest on a recliner or a bed. The staff will check your heart rate, blood pressure and breathing often. Please be sure to ask questions if you have concerns or questions.

Everyone responds differently to the test dose of medicine. The medicine may take 30 minutes to 1 hour to begin to relax your muscles.

Please let staff know if you have side effects, such as:

• Overly loose muscles
• Sleepiness
• Headache
• Dizziness
• Nausea or vomiting

These effects usually last only a short time.

The physical therapist will check your muscle tone two more times over the next few hours to see the effect the medicine is having on your spasticity.

The effect of the injection may last 6 hours or more. After the effects wear off, your muscles will return to the same amount of spasticity that you had before the test.

**After the test**

Your test results will be sent to your doctor. He or she will discuss the results with you and talk to you about further treatment.