Celiac Plexus or Aortic Plexus Block

These blocks are done to help relieve pain from vital organs in the abdomen. You will be scheduled for surgery to have this procedure done.

Talk to your doctor about:
- Any medicines you are taking. You may have to stop certain medicines before your surgery.
- Any allergies you may have.
- Any signs that may mean you have an active infection, such as having fever or chills.
- Whether you are pregnant or think you might be.

What to expect
You are placed on a table on your stomach. The skin of the low back is cleaned with a soap solution. The skin is numbed with medicine. Then the doctor puts a needle through the numbed skin at your lower back. X-ray is used to guide the needle to the right position. Medicine is then injected and the needle is removed. Pain relief from the block is often felt in about 12 hours.
**Possible side effects**

For 12 – 24 hours after the injection, you may have pain or bruising at the site. If this occurs, apply an ice pack for 15 minutes every hour to help relieve the pain. Over the counter pain medicine such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen may also help during this time.

**After the block, some people also have:**

- Back pain
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Bloody urine.

**When to call**

Call the Spine Center at (614)293-2225 if you have:

- Any of the above side effects lasting longer than 3 days
- Any signs of infection, such as redness, swelling, fever, or chills
- Severe back tenderness
- Changes in muscle function such as weakness of a leg
- A headache occurs after the block and does not go away
- You develop shortness of breath or a rash
- Pain increases in the 2-3 days after the block

- **Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions.** You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.