



# CT SI Joint Injection

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## Exam Information

### *Diagnostic Imaging*

#### **What is a sacroiliac (SI) joint injection CT exam?**

A CT SI joint injection is an imaging exam that involves imaging the space around the sacroiliac joint of the pelvis. This allows the doctor to correctly position a needle in the joint space for injection of pain medication.

#### **How is the exam performed?**

You will be lying on your stomach on the CT table. The technologist will position you for your exam using pillows if necessary to make you comfortable.

During the scan the table will move into the “donut” shaped scanner.

The radiologist will go over the risks of the exam before cleaning an area of your back and injecting the local anesthetic.

Next, the doctor uses CT images as a guide for inserting a needle into the space around the sacroiliac joint. After confirming correct placement, the radiologist will inject pain medication into the joint space.

#### **How should I prepare for the exam?**

*Bring a copy of the order written by your doctor.* You will also need to bring a list of your current medications.

- You may take your daily medications except for blood thinners (Coumadin, Plavix). Your doctor will advise you about when to stop taking these medications.
- Dress in comfortable clothes. Try to wear clothing without metal (such as belt buckles, underwire bras etc.) If this is not possible, a gown will be provided for your exam
- You may need a ride home after the exam.

#### **What will I feel during the exam?**

The injection of local anesthetic will sting momentarily. You will feel pressure when the needle is inserted into the joint. Repositioning of the needle can cause a sharp pain.

#### **Who interprets the exam and when will I get my results?**

After the exam, a radiologist who is specially trained to interpret CT scans will review your images and send a written report to the physician that ordered the exam for you. That physician will then contact you with your results.