

Vertebroplasty: aftercare

You have had a vertebroplasty to improve your back pain following your vertebral fracture. In addition, we may have taken a tissue sample to find out what is wrong or we may have performed facet joint injections.

This was performed by Dr _____

Date and time: _____

Blood pressure/Pulse on discharge: _____

Clinical condition on discharge: _____

What to expect afterwards:

- Rest, take it easy and avoid strenuous activity for the next 48 hours.
- You may have pain, bruising and discomfort near/around the vertebroplasty site. This should improve over the next 24-48 hours. Please take painkillers for relief either at home or ask the nursing staff if in hospital.
- Slight oozing from your wound site is normal, if you see fresh blood or bleeding apply pressure. If it does not stop after 10 minutes of pressure then call for help – please attend the Emergency Department (A&E) or call 999.

When to seek help

Please contact us if you experience:

- If you have any new weakness or severe pain in your legs following the procedure suggesting a nerve has become irritated by the cement. This is very unlikely.
- If you suddenly lose control of your bladder or bowel
- If your pain initially improves, but then suddenly worsens and is severe. This may indicate a new vertebral fracture.
- Increasing back pain associated with fevers/lethargy.

Please bring this information sheet with you if you seek medical attention.

Pain relief

Continue to take your normal painkillers at home. If you don't normally take pain relief but your pain is worse post procedure then consider the following if it is safe for you to do so:

- **Paracetamol** – do not take more than 8 tablets in 24 hours (unless you have been advised otherwise e.g. you have a reduced liver function).
- **Anti-inflammatory** – Ibuprofen, Aspirin, etc. You can take one of these in addition to paracetamol if you have moderate pain (unless you have been advised otherwise e.g. you have a duodenal ulcer).

As healing occurs, you will feel less pain and your painkillers can be reduced.

Wound care

Try to keep your wound dry for the next 48 hours after which you can remove the dressing and clean it normally. If you find your wound is still open, redress it with a plaster until it heals.

When can I resume my normal lifestyle?

This will depend on how soon you recover. You should be able to resume most normal activities of daily living within 24 hours.

When can I drive?

You should not drive for 24 hours after the procedure. After 24 hours, you should consider whether your wound or pain may prevent you from driving, e.g. being able to perform an emergency stop comfortably.

What happens next?

The doctor who performed your procedure will contact you by telephone within 4-8 weeks to assess your response to the procedure.

Contact us

Radiology Day Case Unit on 0118 322 8368 (Monday-Friday 8.30am-5pm).

Out of hours, please attend Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Emergency Department or your nearest Emergency Department (A&E).

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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Next review due: September 2025