



# Intercostal Nerve Block

Intercostal nerve blocks are used to treat chest and rib pain caused by bruising, fractured ribs, shingle pain, and pleurisy.

Intercostal nerve blocks are performed by placing a small needle into the intercostals nerve. A local anesthetic or numbing medicine is injected into the rib area near the spine. You may experience a stinging sensation in the area of pain during the injection. Several injections may be necessary to provide adequate pain relief. The numbing medicine can cause an immediate decrease in the level of pain. Possible side effects of this procedure include slight bruising, temporary numbness to the skin, and soreness. Shortness of breath is not a normal side effect of intercostal blocks. If shortness of breath occurs, please contact the **PAIN TREATMENT CENTER**.

## Side Effects:

Side effects or complications after a procedure are very uncommon. Possible complications may include nerve injury, infection, or bleeding. If you experience an unexpected side effect or complication that concerns you, please contact the Pain Treatment Center immediately. If problems occur after regular hours and require emergency medical attention, please call or go to the emergency room. The hospital operator or emergency room personnel can page the doctor on call for questions that can be answered over the phone.