



## Radiofrequency Lesioning

Also known as “Radiofrequency Thermocoagulation”, radiofrequency lesioning is a procedure performed by a pain specialist in a hospital or ambulatory center, on an outpatient basis.

A small amount of local anesthetic is injected by the doctor allowing insertion of the special needles with fluoroscopic guidance. Once the nerve is identified by stimulation, a small radiofrequency current is delivered through an insulated needle to disrupt nerve function.

A local anesthetic and mild sedative are commonly used to diminish discomfort during the procedure. Site discomfort may occur after the procedure, but it is treatable with medication. Most people return to work one to two days after the procedure.

This procedure is usually performed after two to three successful facet injections or nerve blocks. Your physician can decide if this procedure is appropriate for you.

Since nerves can regenerate, radiofrequency treatment can provide pain relief for 3 to 24 months, depending on various factors. However, the procedure can be repeated after the appropriate time.

Discuss any potential risks with your physician before agreeing to the procedure.