

The Spinalletter™

February 2006

Volume 1, Issue 01

Providers:

Merril W Reuter, MD
PHD FACPS

Mark J Metzger
DPM MS

Dannell B Anschuetz
DO FAAPMR

Earnest Kepler
PA-C

Luciano Barletta
PA-C

Mary Amato
PA-C PT

Editor:

Fabio Furiere, MD

Office Information:

Address:

7625 Lake Worth Road
Lake Worth, FL 33467
Phone: 561 433-2232

Join us to learn techniques:

[MISS in the Sacred Valley - Cusco, PERU](#)
[June 15-18, 2006](#)

e-mails:

info@spineupdate.com

New patients please fill out the form below:

[New Patient Appointment Request Form](#)

We provide all the following exams:

- X ray.
- CT Scan.
- MRI.
- Nerve Test.
- Discogram.
- Facet and Nerve Block.

Next Issue:

“ Nucleoplasty “

Discogram:

A discogram is a procedure to diagnose low back pain to determine the anatomical source of low back pain for the patient. This procedure is most frequently used to determine if degenerative disc disease is the cause of a patient's pain (discogenic low back pain). Discograms are also performed to assist in preoperative planning for candidates for a lumbar spinal fusion.



In this procedure, the discographer inserts a needle in the patient's back into the center of the disc. Radiographic dye is then injected into the disc, and if injecting the dye recreates the patient's normal pain (concordant), it is then inferred that the specific disc is the source of pain for the patient. If the pain is unlike their normal pain (discordant) it can be inferred that even though the disc may look degenerated on an MRI scan, it is in fact not the source of the patient's pain. The test itself is painful, but the patient needs to be awake and aware in order to tell the discographer what kind of pain is generated by the injection.

As the discogram injection is not for treatment of pain, a steroid (anti-inflammatory medication) is not injected.

However, sometimes a discographer will inject lidocaine (a numbing agent) into the disc to decrease the pain of the procedure. Often, after the discogram is completed, a CT scan is performed to check the morphology (anatomy) of the disc.

There are a limited number of risks involved with a discogram. Disc space infection is a serious but rare (<0.1%) potential complication. Because the needle passes close to the nerve, there is also slight risk of nerve root damage with the test.

Minimally invasive, these are the words for your patients at Advanced Orthopaedics of South Florida (AOSF). We are at 7625 Lake Worth Road, Lake Worth, Florida and we offer to our patients the following treatments:

- Physical Therapy
- Epidural Injection
- Facet Injection
- Nerve Injection
- Nucleoplasty
- Endoscopic Discectomy
- X Stop system
- Physical Therapy
- MedX Therapy

www.spineupdate.com

info@spineupdate.com