

Pain Management

682-885-7246

1500 Cooper Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76104**Radiofrequency ablation (RFA)**

A treatment to reduce some types of chronic pain.

- Uses radio waves to create an electric current.
- Current heats a small area of nerve tissue.
- This decreases or blocks pain signals from area.



Heating nerve tissue



Nerve tissue after ablation

How ablation helps

Radiofrequency ablation is typically done for long term pain relief. Pain relief from RFA usually lasts for 6 to 12 months and in some cases, relief can last for years.

We call you several days before the procedure.**We will tell you:**

- Where and when to arrive.
- When to stop drinking and eating.

Medicines and Allergies:

1. We will ask for the name and dose of all medicines your child takes.
2. We will ask if your child has allergies.

Note: You may need to stop taking some of your medicines before the procedure.

How we give the block

Takes approximately 45 minutes.

1. We start an IV and give you medicine to relax.
2. You lie on your stomach on the x-ray table.
3. We clean the skin on your back to help decrease chance of infection.
4. Doctor injects small area with numbing medicine.
5. X-ray or ultrasound guides your doctor to nerve.
6. When needle tip is in place, we pass an electric current through the tissues. The current heats the nerve and ablates it.
7. Local anesthetic is then placed at site to numb the nerves after heating.

Please know:**You should *not* have this procedure if you:**

1. Have allergies to any x-ray dye, seafood, Lasix or and of the medicines we may inject.
2. Are on a blood thinning medicine such as Coumadin, heparin, or Lovenox.
3. Have an active infection.
4. Have a temperature over 101 degrees.
5. Have a low platelet count.

Risks

Generally speaking, this procedure is safe.

However, like any procedure there are risks, side effects, and the possibility of complications.

Risks may include but are not limited to:

- Tenderness
- Bruising
- Bleeding at the injection site
- Headache
- Temporary weakness
- Infection
- Nerve damage
- Allergic reaction to the local anesthetic or medicine