



ALLIANCE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Experience Health Caring EXAM: Lumbar Puncture

INDICATIONS:	If you have specific questions as to the reason for the examination, please contact your ordering physician. This exam is to obtain a sample of cerebrospinal fluid for laboratory evaluation.
CONTRA-INDICATIONS OR PRECAUTIONS:	Make sure your physician and the imaging staff are aware of any medication allergies especially lidocaine. Patient needs to be able to lay on their stomach. The table weight limit is 330 lbs – anything over, call QC.
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE? WHERE DO I GO?	The patient will need to be here 1 hour prior to the exam for bloodwork and may need to be here up to 6 hours after the procedure for observation. Most likely you will be preregistered and you can go directly to the Imaging Department. When you enter the front of the hospital, located on State Street you will go past the waterfall down the main hallway. After you cross the second circular hall intersection, the Imaging comfort area is the first door to the right.
PREPARATION:	Nothing to eat or drink 2 hours prior to the exam. Patient will need to be here 60 minutes prior to the exam for labs. If you have been given a doctors order (prescription) for the exam, you must have it with you at the time of the exam. Patient should avoid taking anti-inflammatory medication 24-48 hours prior to procedure (ex: Advil, Motrin, ibuprofen, Aleve, naproxyn, etc), aspirin, plavix, coumadin, or any other blood thinners should be stopped prior to exam. Please be sure to discuss discontinuation or prescribed medications with your physician, they will tell you how many days prior to the procedure to discontinue you medications. Do not discontinue without consultation with your physician first.
MEDICATION ISSUES:	Be sure to bring your days medications with you due to the possible length of your stay at the hospital.
WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT:	The patient is required to have blood work prior to the exam. During the exam, there will be a needle introduced into the spine area after the patient's skin is numbed for comfort. A small amount of fluid will be drained from the spine and sent to the lab. Patient will be instructed to lay flat for a period of time to try to avoid a spinal headache. If you have any questions please feel free to call the Imaging Department at 330-596-7700. If you need to change your scheduled appointment time call 330-596-7187.