



Vertebroplasty

Vertebroplasty involves injection of polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) cement into the collapsed vertebra (vertebrae). This cement reinforces and stabilizes the fracture with the goal of alleviating pain and improving mobility.

1. **Labs:** PT/INR, PTT, CBC (HCG, if needed) no older than 48 hrs are usually requested. If the patient is on anticoagulant therapy, PT/INR, PTT need to be the day of the procedure. Orders should be obtained according to these guidelines.
2. The patient should be instructed to be NPO 4 hours prior to the procedure.
3. **Meds:** It is NOT normally required to withhold routine medications *If the patient is on anticoagulant therapy, orders will need to be obtained for withholding these meds
4. If the patient is unable to give informed consent, please have the appropriate designee available to give consent, either by phone or in person.
5. The patient will be positioned on his/her abdomen for the procedure.
6. The patient should be prepared to remain flat and still for 3 hours post procedure. This allows the cement to set in the correct area.
7. These patients are usually discharged the same day.
8. I.V. access will be needed for sedation and antibiotics.
9. If the patient brought outside MRI/CT films (tests not performed at GMC), these should accompany the patient to the Imaging Department. The radiologist may get the films from the patient prior to the procedure for inpatients.

An Imaging nurse can be reached at x5280, M-F, 7am – 7pm. After hours, the on-call nurse can be paged by contacting the Imaging Front Office at 678-312-4455 or Extension 24455.