

## St. Luke's Imaging Services Patient/Family Information

# Lumbar Puncture

### What is a lumbar puncture procedure?

A lumbar puncture is an exam to obtain spinal fluid from the spinal canal in the back for testing by the lab. This exam is performed in the fluoroscopy area of the Imaging Services department and takes approximately 1 hour.

### Special Note

Before the exam, please inform your physician if you are or think you may be pregnant.

It is also important to inform your physician if you have had a previous reaction to x-ray dye.

### Preparation

Please bring your medication list with you to your exam.

Some medications may need to be discontinued before your procedure. A radiology nurse will be contacting you to review your medication list. If you have any questions about medications you are taking and if they need to be discontinued, you may contact a radiology nurse at 369-8932.

You should have nothing to eat or drink 4 hours prior to the time of the scheduled exam.

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your appointment time and register at the West Entrance of St. Luke's Hospital. After registration is complete, the exam will be performed in the Imaging Services Department on the 2nd floor, just off of Elevator A.

### What happens during the test?

The patient lies on the exam table on their stomach. After cleaning the back, the radiologist will numb the skin with a local anesthetic and insert a needle into the vertebral space of the spine. A sample of spinal fluid will be taken from this needle and sent to the lab.

### Who interprets the results and how do I get them?

The radiologist will review all the x-rays and information shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss these results with you. Please allow your physician the time needed to review these results.