

UnityPoint Health - Finley Hospital Radiology 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 Radiology Department and takes approximately 1 hour.

Special Note

Before the exam, please tell your doctor if you are or there is a possibility you may be pregnant.

Preparation

Please bring your medication list with you to your exam.

The patient should not take aspirin or medication such as blood thinners for seven days prior to the scheduled exam.

The patient may have only clear liquids for 4 hours before the time of the scheduled exam

The patient will be required to arrive at the Outpatient Care Unit prior to the scheduled exam. A history and physical will be needed.

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. The patient will then need to lie flat for approximately two hours after the procedure in the Outpatient Care Unit.

When Will I Know the Results?

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.

Name: _____

Exam Date/Time: _____