

## What is Radiofrequency Ablation?

**Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA)** is a way to interrupt pain signals. It uses electrical current from radio waves to heat a small area of nerve tissue. This reduces the nerve's ability to send pain signals from that specific area.

Clinical studies show that radiofrequency ablation can provide lasting pain relief.

## When should I get emergency assistance?

Dial 911 or have someone take you to the nearest emergency room immediately if you experience either of the following:

- **Difficulty Breathing:** such as shortness of breath or pain when breathing (particularly after upper back or chest injections)
- **Severe Swelling**

Tell the emergency room staff that you just had a radiofrequency ablation. A physician must evaluate you for bleeding or respiratory complications.

## When should I call for help?

If you experience **weakness or numbness in your legs or feet, an increase in pain, fever, or chills**, you may need an immediate evaluation.

Contact Quantum Pain & Spine right away at:  
**(469) 913-6136**

## CONTACT US

PHONE:

**(469) 913-6136**



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### Locations

Irving · Fort Worth · Allen · Lake Highlands  
Arlington · Plano · DeSoto



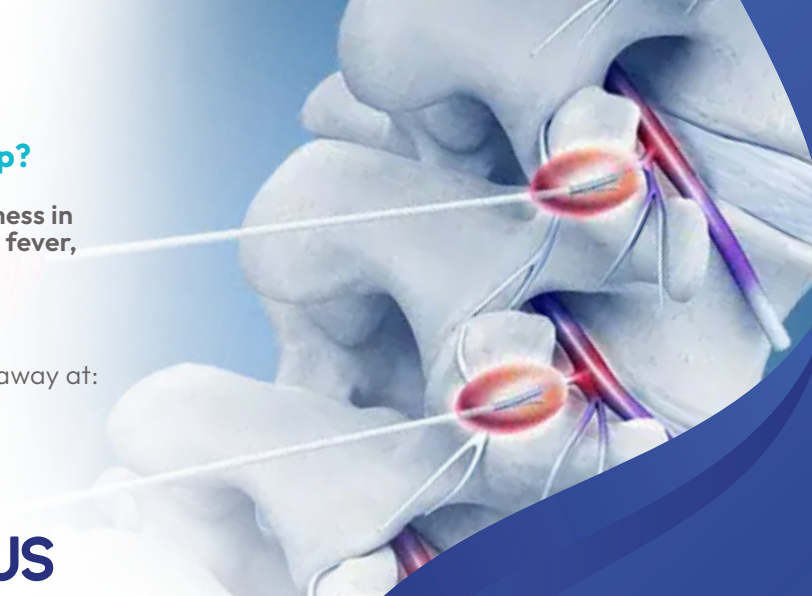
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**QUANTUM**  
— PAIN & SPINE —

# RADIOFREQUENCY ABLATION

Exceptional Care.  
Exceptional Results.



# 1

## The Day of the Procedure



**You must fast for 8 hours** before the procedure. This includes:

- Water, mints, gum, ice, candy, and all tobacco products.



You will need to bring a responsible adult with you to drive you home after the procedure. The driver must come into the clinic and wait in the waiting area throughout the entire procedure.



If you are nursing or may possibly be pregnant, please inform your physician. Before the procedure, sedatives (medications to relax you) may be administered.



If you take any **blood thinners** (Aspirin, BC Powder, Eliquis, Plavix, Pradaza, etc.) inform your provider. You may be asked to discontinue use prior to your procedure.



Take your regular medications (**blood pressure, diabetes, etc.**) **4 hours** before your procedure with a small sip of **water**.

- Administer insulin as usual.
- **DO NOT** discontinue any medication without first consulting with your primary care provider or referring physician.

# 2

## Procedure

The procedure takes approximately 45 minutes.



### Step 1

You will be lying either on your stomach or back during the procedure. Both local anesthesia and a mild sedative may be used to reduce any discomfort during the procedure. You will be awake during the process to aid in properly pinpointing the nerve.



### Step 2

After the local anesthesia has been administered, your doctor will insert a small needle into the general area where you are experiencing pain. Using X-ray, your doctor will guide the needle to the exact target area. A microelectrode is then inserted through the needle to begin the stimulation process.



### Step 3

During the process, your doctor will ask if you can feel a tingling sensation. The object of the stimulation process is to help your doctor determine if the electrode is in the optimal area for treatment.



### Step 4

Once the needle and electrode placement is verified, a small radiofrequency current is sent through the electrode into the surrounding tissue, causing the tissue to heal.



### Step 5

A nurse will monitor your vitals during the procedure.



### Step 6

A bandage will be placed over the injection site.

# 3

## After Procedure

- You may need to be in our recovery room for about 15-25 minutes for observation.
- A bandage may be placed over the injection site.
- A nurse will provide you with a beverage and review your discharge instructions.
- Once the procedure is complete and you are ready to be discharged, our staff will notify your driver, who should be waiting in the reception area, so they can bring the vehicle closer. Our recovery room staff will then escort you in a wheelchair to meet your driver.

# POST-CARE

## Discharge Instructions

- Do not drive or operate heavy machinery for at least 24 hours after the procedure.
- If you are breastfeeding, please discard breast milk for 24 hours following your procedure.
- You may resume your normal diet.
- Do not engage in any strenuous activity.
- Do not take a bath; you may shower.
- You may remove any bandages in the evening before going to bed.
- Apply ice to the injection sites (4 times per day for 3 days).

## At Home

You may experience any of the following side effects after the procedure:

- **Leg muscle weakness or numbness:** If you have any leg weakness or numbness, walk only with assistance, as your legs may buckle when trying to walk.
- **Mild discomfort in the back:** This may occur when the local anesthetic wears off. This usually lasts 2 or 3 days. If discomfort persists, apply ice to the area on the day of the procedure and moist heat on the following day.

