



SAINT ANTHONY MEDICAL CENTER

Diagnostic Radiology (X-Ray) Department

815-395-5433

Test Name:

Lumbar Puncture, Spinal Tap

Welcome to the OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Diagnostic Radiology Department.

You have been scheduled to have a **Lumbar Puncture**, also called a spinal tap. This is a diagnostic procedure using fluoroscopy (a form of x-ray).

This information will help you understand the test that has been scheduled.

Thank you for trusting OSF for your medical imaging needs.

What to Bring with You:

You may have had x-rays done at a hospital other than OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center. Please bring copies of the pictures with you the day of the test. You may also request that the doctor's office send the pictures or results to OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center before your test.

Preparation:

You can not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your test, except for clear liquids. There is to be no pulp juice, tea/coffee with sugar or cream.

Jewelry:

Please remove all jewelry from your belly before your test.

Family:

Family or friends may be asked to stay in the waiting area during the test.

Pregnancy Testing:

Pregnancy testing will now be performed on females receiving diagnostics between the ages of 10 and 55 years old if you have not had your tubes tied or a hysterectomy. Home pregnancy tests are not acceptable. If you know that you are pregnant, please notify your doctor.

Medications:

You may take medication as prescribed with 2 to 3 sips of water, except for medications discussed with you on the phone by a nurse.

Allergies:

You will receive contrast (iodine/X-ray dye) as part of the test. Contrast is something given in order for

the body part to be seen on an X-ray. If you have any known allergies to iodine or X-ray contrast, please contact your ordering doctor. You may need to take special medications before having this test.

Test Instructions:

The test will be explained to you by a registered x-ray technologist. You will be asked to sign a consent form before the test starts. You will be asked to wear a hospital gown for your test. A registered technologist will help a radiologist with your test. The test will take about 60 minutes. You will lie on an x-ray table on your stomach or side.

The radiologist (a doctor specializing in reading X-rays) or technologist will clean your back with a red colored soap called betadine. A radiologist will numb the area with a very small needle and inject numbing medicine called xylocaine. Once the area is numb, the radiologist will then insert a needle into your back and to your spinal canal to remove small amount of cerebral spinal fluid. The needle will then be removed. The technologist will send the cerebral spinal fluid to the lab for testing. The radiologist and x-ray technologist will take pictures. You must have someone drive you home

After Test Instructions:

You should lay flat for up to eight hours after the test. If you get a headache, call your ordering doctor.

Test Results:

Your test will be read by a radiologist who will complete a report that will be sent to your ordering doctor. You can make plans with your ordering doctor to receive your test results.