

An Algorithmic Approach to Facet Joint Interventions

- Diagnostic blocks
 - = 4 components
 - Axial pain > 5
 - 3 months duration
 - Failed with conservative methods
 - No untreated radiculopathy (current imaging)

- First block $\geq 80\%$ relief

Positive

Negative

Negative (false positive)

Stop Facet Joint Interventions

- Second block $\geq 80\%$ relief

Positive

Radiofrequency or Therapeutic facet joint blocks

- Bilateral at the same time
- No other procedures with facet joint interventions
- 3 months or 6 months relief

Diagnostic blocks must be repeated if there is not treatment performed in 2 years

Light sedation is permitted.

No opioids for Diagnostic Blocks.

Contraindicated in patients with anterior lumbar interbody fusion or ALIF

Moderate sedation or MAC are permitted for RFT