During a lumbar puncture, the physician will insert a needle into the lower spine:
• to obtain cerebrospinal fluid (the fluid that circulates around the brain and spinal cord) to look for infection or cancer cells, or
• to administer medication, including chemotherapy, or
• to monitor and relieve spinal fluid

Please read this brochure so you understand the procedure and its risks. Ask questions about anything you do not understand.

HOW IS A LUMBAR PUNCTURE PERFORMED?
Your child will be placed on their side or stomach. We will inject local numbing medicine into the area around the spine. Using ultrasound or live X-ray (fluoroscopy) for guidance, the doctor will insert a needle into the spinal space. Once the needle is in the correct position, fluid will be removed and sent to the laboratory and/or medicine will be injected.

WILL MY CHILD BE AWAKE FOR THE PROCEDURE?
We will use either light sedation or a local numbing medicine depending on your child's age and medical history.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF A LUMBAR PUNCTURE?
The procedure is considered low-risk. However, potential complications include:
• infection
• bleeding
• nerve damage
• headache

WILL MY CHILD BE IN ANY PAIN AFTER THE PROCEDURE?
There might be mild bruising or tenderness in the lower back for a day or two.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT AFTER THE PROCEDURE IS COMPLETE?
After the procedure is complete, your child will need to lie on their back in the recovery area for a period of time to minimize the chance of having a headache. Then your child will be able to go home or return to their hospital room.

continued
WHEN CAN MY CHILD BATHE?
We will place a Band-Aid® or clear bandage and gauze over the site. Keep the area dry for 24 hours. After 24 hours, you may remove the bandage and your child may shower or take a bath as usual.

CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR CHILD EXPERIENCES ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:
• headache lasting longer than 24 hours
• fever higher than 101° Fahrenheit
• drainage, such as pus, from the site
• overall weakness
• numbness of the legs


AT ALL OTHER TIMES, CALL 215-590-1000 AND ASK TO SPEAK TO THE INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLoGIST ON CALL.

THANK YOU!