

PROTOCOL FOR: Discogram: Care of the Patient Undergoing

DESIRED PATIENT

- OUTCOMES:
1. The patient will receive appropriate medication(s), safely administered during the periprocedural period.
 2. The patient demonstrates and/or reports adequate pain control throughout the periprocedural period.
 3. The patient demonstrates knowledge of the expected responses to Discogram.

4. The patient demonstrates knowledge of post-discharge pain management.

CLINICAL
ASSESSMENT
AND CARE:

1. Pre-Procedure care per protocol. Reinforce teaching that this diagnostic test performed to view and assess the internal structure of a disc and determine if it is a source of pain. Explain that a needle will inserted through a previously placed needle in the skin and into the disc under fluoroscopy. A saline solution and radiopaque dye are injected into the disc or discs if more than one disc is being examined. A CT scan is usually performed on the painful disc after the dye is injected to obtain images of the dye distribution. This will demonstrate annular tears, scarring, disc bulges and changes in the nucleus of the disc.

Emphasize that the goals of the test include: a)recreation of painful symptoms if the disc/discs is abnormal, and b) confirmation of a diagnosis and/or determination of which disc/discs is the source of pain.

2. Intra-procedure per unit standard, or per HAM 08-013.
3. Post-procedure care per protocol, medicating for pain only as necessary. Instruct patient to notify the unit or Radiologist if they develop a post-procedure headache, nausea/vomiting or severe pain.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/93

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