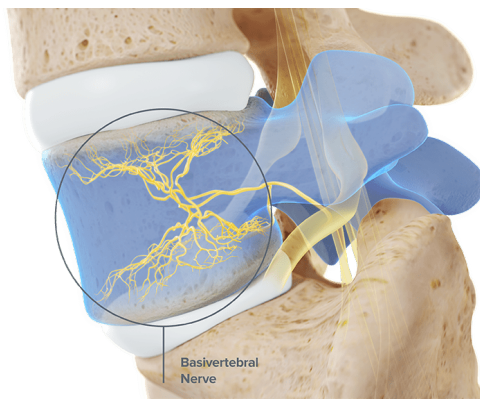


EMORY PAIN CENTER

Basivertebral Nerve Ablation

What is basivertebral nerve ablation? Basivertebral nerve ablation is a minimally invasive procedure used to treat chronic back pain caused by vertebral endplate fractures or certain abnormalities or alterations in the vertebral bones. It involves the use of radiofrequency energy to target and ablate the basivertebral nerves, which are sensory nerves located in the vertebral bodies. By interrupting the pain signals transmitted by these nerves, basivertebral nerve ablation can provide significant pain relief and improve daily functioning.



What are the indications for basivertebral nerve ablation? Basivertebral nerve ablation is typically recommended for individuals with chronic back pain caused by vertebral endplate fractures or certain abnormalities or alterations in the vertebral bones. These conditions can result in severe and persistent back pain that has not responded to conservative treatments such as medications, physical therapy, or spinal injections. Basivertebral nerve ablation aims to provide long-lasting pain relief and improve quality of life.

How is basivertebral nerve ablation performed? Basivertebral nerve ablation is performed as an outpatient procedure. You will be positioned comfortably on the procedure table, and the skin over the treatment area will be cleansed with an antiseptic solution. Under the guidance of imaging techniques, a small radiofrequency probe is inserted into the vertebral body through a small incision or needle puncture. The probe delivers radiofrequency energy to the basivertebral nerves, creating a thermal lesion that disrupts their function. The procedure is performed with local anesthesia, and sedation may be provided for your comfort. The entire procedure typically takes less than an hour.

What are the potential risks or side effects of basivertebral nerve ablation?

Basivertebral nerve ablation is considered safe, but like any medical procedure, it carries some risks. Potential risks and side effects may include infection, bleeding, nerve injury, allergic reactions to the medications used, or temporary soreness or discomfort at the treatment site. These risks will be discussed with you by your healthcare provider before the procedure.

What should I expect after basivertebral nerve ablation? After the procedure, you will be monitored in a recovery area for a short period. Some individuals may experience temporary soreness or discomfort at the treatment site, which can be managed with over-the-counter pain medications. Your healthcare provider will provide instructions for post-procedure care, including any pain management strategies and activity restrictions. It is important to report any new or worsening symptoms to your healthcare provider and attend scheduled follow-up appointments.