

Lumbar Puncture with Spinraza (nusinersen)

How to take care of the skin site

Your child had a lumbar puncture (LP) or spinal tap with Spinraza, also called nusinersen. This is when a needle is placed in the spine to remove fluid and inject Spinraza (nusinersen).

How do I prevent infection?

- Keep the Band-Aid or dressing clean and dry.
 - Leave the dressing in place until bedtime or the next morning.
 - Remove the dressing the next morning.
 - Do not leave it on for more than 24 hours. A dirty dressing could increase the chance for infection.
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Will my child have any pain?

Your child was given numbing medication and/or anesthesia during the lumbar puncture. This should help after they wake up. Most children do not require strong pain medication unless it was hard to get the needle into the spine. We will tell you if this occurred, and if you should expect your child to be uncomfortable. Let your provider know if your child complains of pain at home.

How do I manage general lumbar puncture side effects?

Side effects are rare after lumbar puncture. One common side effect is a “spinal headache.” Your child will be asked to lie flat for 1 hour after the procedure in hopes of reducing this headache. Call the clinic if your child complains of a severe headache or has increased irritability.

You can help prevent a headache at home by drinking plenty of fluids.

How do I manage Spinraza side effects?

Spinraza (nusinersen) has had reported side effects of thrombocytopenia, or low platelets. Platelets help your blood clot. Your child will need to go to the lab for a blood test before each visit to check for this possible side effect. Your child’s provider will discuss details about the lab process and location with you. Contact your provider if you notice an increase in bruising, bleeding, or if your child develops nose bleeds. With medications like Spinraza, there is a report of kidney injury called glomerulonephritis. Your child will have urine tests before every procedure to check for this; however, contact your provider if you notice brown or cola-colored urine.

Call Neurology at 206-987-2078 for information or concerns.

To Learn More

- Neurology
206-987-2078
- Ask your child’s healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.



When should I call the clinic?

Call Neurology at 206-987-2078, option 4 if you notice any of these warning signs:

- Swelling or redness around the skin site
- Fever of 101 degrees Fahrenheit (38.3 Celsius)
- Blood or clear fluid draining from the skin site
- Severe headache or increased irritability