

# Diskogram

**Contrast is injected into the suspected disk space(s) to evaluate which disk(s) is causing the patient's pain. This procedure is uncomfortable since minimal pain medication is administered during the procedure so the patient's pain will not be masked. Pain medication is administered as soon as possible when the procedure is completed.**

- 1. Labs are not needed unless the patient is on anticoagulants. In this case, orders will need to be obtained for a PT/INR and PTT. These labs need to be as current as the day of the procedure.**
- 2. The patient will be able to have a "light" breakfast.**
- 3. The patient will need to know that he/she will not be given pain medication for 4 hours prior to the procedure. On arrival to the Imaging Dept., the Imaging nurse will administer minimal amounts of pain medication as described above. Generally, routine medications, excluding pain meds and anticoagulants, are not withheld prior to the procedure. For patients on anticoagulant therapy, you will need to obtain orders for withholding the medication.**
- 4. I.V. access will be needed to administer antibiotics pre-procedure and pain meds post procedure.**
- 5. The patient's back will need to be scrubbed the night before with Hibiclens, Phisoderm or comparable cleanser. The patient or a family member can do this.**
- 6. Some patients bring outside MRI films, which are needed, for the procedure. Be sure these films are transported with the patient to the Imaging Dept.**
- 7. If the patient is unable to give informed consent, be sure the appropriate designee is available to give consent, either in person or by phone.**

An Imaging nurse can be reached at x5280, M-F, 7am-7pm. After hours, the on-call nurse can be paged by contacting the Imaging front office at x4455.