**Celiac Plexus Block**

**What is a celiac plexus block?**

A celiac plexus block is used for pain control. The physician uses a local anesthetic to block the nerves which come from the pancreas, liver, gall bladder, stomach and intestine. Although rare, there is a risk for injury to major blood vessels, nerve roots, kidney, and lung.

**What happens during the procedure?**

An IV will be placed in your arm and you will be lying face down. The area will be cleansed and numbed. The doctor will use x-ray to guide the placement of the needle. Local anesthetic will then be administered to the area of the celiac plexus. Your vital signs will be monitored briefly and then the nurse will discharge you to go home.

**Discharge Instructions:**

• Check the site for swelling, redness, warmth, or signs of infection such as fever or drainage from the site. If present please contact the physician’s office.

• A small bruise and tenderness at the site is normal for a few days. Ice should be used the first 48 hours, then ice or heat. Apply ice to the injection site 20 minutes every 1-2 hours. **Do not use heat for the first 48 hours.**

• You should feel relief shortly after the injection lasting for several hours. Keep track of how long your pain relief lasts. If you receive pain relief you may benefit from more injections.

• Following the injections you may experience low blood pressure, warmth and tingling in your legs, dizziness, temporary diarrhea and blood in your urine.

• If you experience severe back or abdominal pain or numbness or weakness of your legs, or if you feel your condition warrants immediate attention please go directly to the nearest emergency room.

• If you received sedation, do not drive or operate machinery, drink alcohol, stay alone, make any important decisions, sign important papers or go back to work until the next day.

• You will need a follow up appointment. If you are not already scheduled please call our office to set one up.