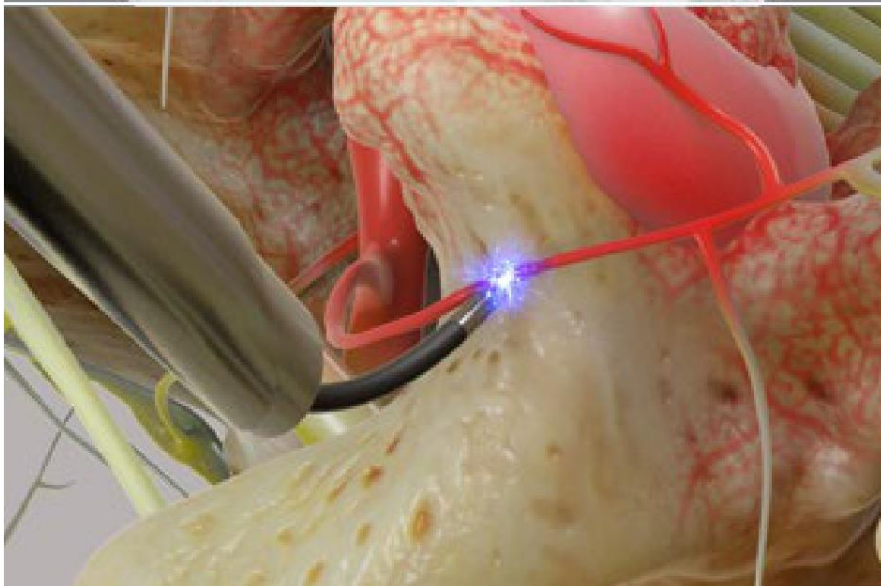
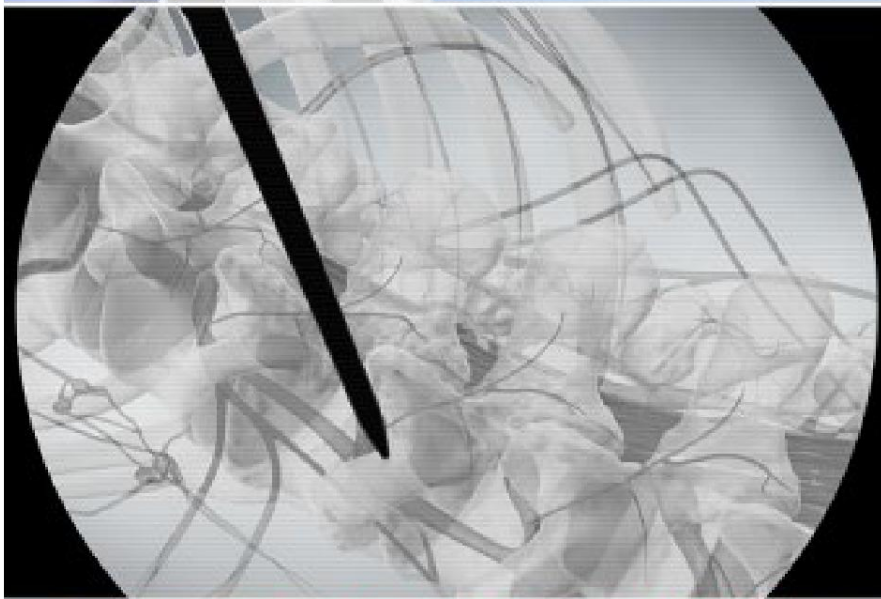




## Radiofrequency Neurotomy (Endoscopic Method)



### Overview

This procedure uses heat from radio waves to treat painful facet joints in your lower back. It eases pain that isn't helped by medications or physical therapy.

### Preparation

To begin, you lie on your stomach. You may be given medicine to relax you. We numb the skin and tissue of your lower back. Next, we guide a tube called a "cannula" to your spine. A video x-ray device called a "fluoroscope" helps guide the tube to the medial branch nerves. These tiny nerves carry pain signals from your facet joints to your brain.

### Treating the nerves

Now, we send a camera called an endoscope through the cannula and down to these nerves. This gives us a clear view of the nerves. Then, we push an electrode through a channel in the endoscope. We use it to heat the nerves with radio waves. Heating them stops them from carrying pain signals. We may need to treat several nerves.

### End of procedure

When it's done, you get a small bandage on your skin. You're watched in a recovery room for a brief time. Then, you can go home. You may feel sore, and you may still have back pain. But you'll gradually feel pain relief. This can take several weeks.