Overview

• Evaluate spinal cord for causes of pain or pathology

• The use of fluoroscopic systems for interventional purposes is restricted to radiologists and individuals to whom a physician has delegated authority pursuant to the Occupations Code, Chapter 601, and the applicable rules of the Texas Medical Board.

Indications

• Spinal cord pain or related pathology

Examination Time

• 1 hour

Patient Preparation

• Stop blood thinners 5 days before procedure

• Obtain informed consent

• Question for allergies

Equipment

• Siemens C-arm

• Omnipaque 300

Patient Position & Imaging Field

• Prone
Acquisition Protocol - Routine Study

• Radiologist performs fluoroscopy and acquires images

Data Processing

• Technologist will send images taken to PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System).

• Technologist will enter exposure time in the appropriate field of RIS (Radiology Information System).

• Technologist will enter DAP (Dose Area Product) and SEE (Skin Entrance Exposure) into the technologist notes field of the RIS.

Radiation Exposure levels

• Recommended operator guidance reference level for this fluoroscopically-guided interventional procedure is 60 minutes beam-on time. Threshold reference level is a SEE of 5 Gy (Gray).

• Radiation Exposure levels are monitored through the Austin Radiological Association’s monthly technologist QA process.

• If the reference level is exceeded, further analysis will be performed by the Protocol Committee and appropriate action taken to include possible patient follow-up.

Protocol Review

• Not to exceed 14 months.