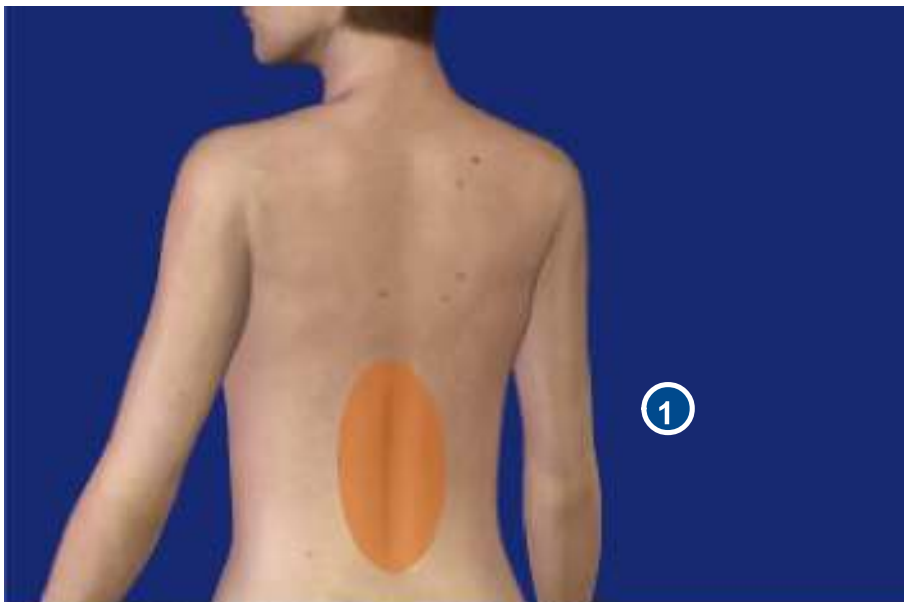


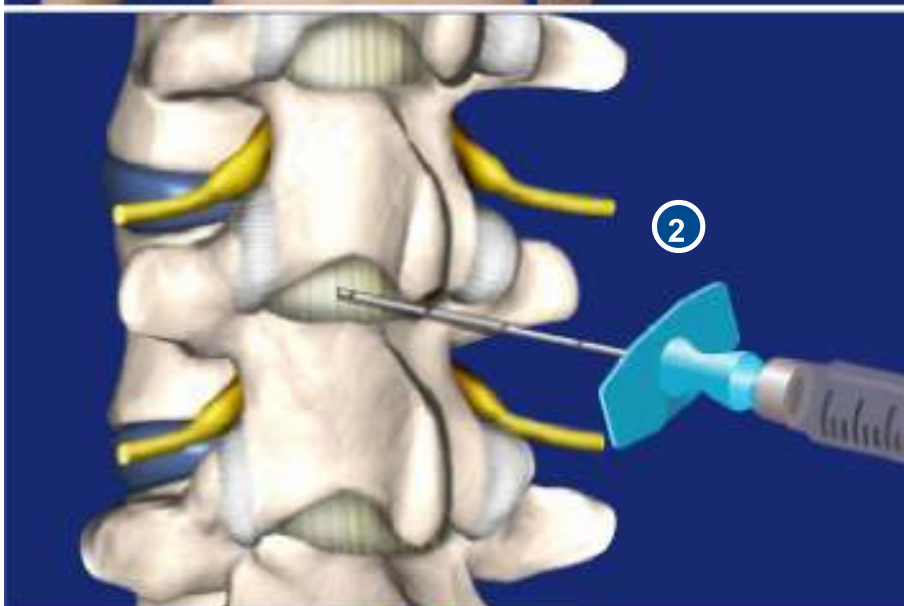
## EPIDURAL FOR CANCER



This procedure delivers a narcotic or a narcotic/anesthetic solution into the epidural space to relieve pain that does not respond to oral or IV medications. It is frequently used for diseases such as cancer and shingles.

### 1. Preparation

The patient sits or lies down to expose the back. The skin of the lower back is cleaned and sterilized. A small needle injects a local anesthetic, creating a numb pathway down to the spine.



### 2. Inserting the Needle

A larger needle is carefully inserted through the numb tissue and guided to the epidural space. The needle is not pushed through the dura, the sac that surrounds the nerve roots, but stops just outside this sac. If a catheter is needed, it is fed through the needle.

### 3. Injecting the Anesthesia

The anesthetic mixture is slowly injected, bathing the epidural space. The numbing sensation typically takes effect within 20 minutes. The region that is numbed depends on the location of the injection and the amount of anesthesia used.

### End of Procedure

The needle is carefully removed. The numbness will typically last for a few hours after the injection. If a catheter is used, it will remain in place in the epidural space so that more anesthetic can be injected as needed. The catheter will be removed when the patient no longer requires anesthesia, and the injection site will be covered with a small bandage.

