

Lakeview Community Wellness Center Orthopaedic Connection

Aching Joint? Injection? Maybe

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Transforming patient information into patient understanding.

I don't have too many patients come in the office and ask for an injection. "Shots" as patients call them usually scare most people, because they have heard it is painful.

I get that as the saying goes, but 9 times out of 10 the patient says "no shots", because someone else told them of a bad experience. It's what they heard. Patients who had a bad experience never stop talking about it. Patients who had an injection and got relief are happy, go on with their life and don't go around forever telling everybody "I had an injection and it didn't hurt".

Bad news travels all over and gets told and retold and good news gets buried. Such is life.

Pain Depends On What?

Mainly on who gave the injection. We give lots of injections in the office and I don't mind saying that it is rare for anyone to have a bad experience. I can't say never, but definitely it's rare. Why?

Knowing the anatomy helps of course and using a local anesthetic to numb the site helps greatly. Lastly, if I am hurting the patient, I stop.

Why Inject?

Basically injections, no matter what the substance, are given in and sometimes around joints to relieve the pain and inflammation of arthritis, tendinitis and bursitis. Obviously I don't inject everybody. I have to decide which patient's condition will respond to it. Often there are some other means of treatment being used to treat the condition besides the injection.

"What's In It?" People Ask

Most often a steroid and a local anesthetic or Hyaluronic Acid.

Steroid

There are a whole family of medications too numerous and complicated to describe here that are called "cortisone". Cortisone is not one medication, but a general name for a large number of medications.

I often use Celestone Soluspan which seems to work the best for me. It is usually combined with a local anesthetic, Xylocaine.

Hyaluronic Acid

The substance I use in the office is known as Supartz. I have used it for several years and know it is effective. Hyaluronic Acid as it is called

is given only for arthritis and is injected directly into the joint, most often the knee.

Lots More To Cover

Since I am running out of space this week, I think I will stop now and resume part 2 next week. I have much more to say. Will you please come back? See you then.

Lakeview Area News Archive and Office Website

What if I told you that every article I have ever written for Lakeview Area News is instantly available to you on the office website www.orthopodsurgeon.com?

It is! Every article is listed by title in the archive from most recent back to the first. Click on the title and the whole article appears magically. These articles contain a huge amount of information you can use.

While you are at it, look over the website library of Orthopaedic articles as well as Your Orthopaedic Connection. These two sources have a huge amount of Orthopaedic information that can be useful to you, your family and friends. I urge you to check it out.

Orthopaedic Clinic

I also hope you realize by now that I am at Lakeview Community Wellness Center every first and third Friday afternoons seeing patients.

You can simply call and make your own appointment. Call 989-463-6092 to make an appointment at the Lakeview Community Wellness Center Orthopaedic Clinic or at the office in Alma.

Approaching Clinic dates are Friday March 30 and April 20, 2012.

I am there for you. Call if you need me.

Our goal is simple - To help people return to more pain free, functional lives. I specialize in you.

Good health. Good life. All the best to you.

Be well.

Dr. Haverbush