

## Epiduroscopy



### Overview

In this minimally-invasive procedure, a flexible instrument containing a tiny camera, called an epiduroscope, is used to diagnose the cause of pain in the lower spine and legs, likely from sciatica. During the procedure, the surgeon may also administer medication to treat the pain.

### Preparation

In preparation for the procedure, the patient is positioned and a local anesthetic is administered. The surgeon uses x-ray fluoroscopy to locate the problem area. A small incision is made and a catheter containing the epiduroscope is inserted.

### Diagnosis and Treatment

The epiduroscope contains a fiber optic camera that will enable the surgeon to look for damage and scar tissue on the spine that may be causing sciatica. The physician may use instruments, inserted through the catheter, to gently remove or break down scar tissue. Anesthetic or corticosteroid medication may also be injected to relieve inflammation of nerve roots.

### End of Procedure

When the procedure is complete, the catheter is removed and the incision is closed with sutures. Patients will be able to return home the same day as the procedure, and return to normal activities within a week.

