



### **Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA)**

#### **What is radiofrequency ablation?**

Radiofrequency ablation is a procedure that can provide long lasting pain relief for patients who have received pain relief from a medial branch block or nerve block. During this procedure, a needle is placed over the target nerve. An electrode is then threaded through the needle. The electrode is heated and creates a lesion over the nerve. The lesion interrupts the pain signal generated by the nerve, thus providing pain relief. A radiofrequency ablation typically provides up to 6-12 months of pain relief.

#### **What can I expect during this procedure?**

Your procedure will be performed at an outpatient surgery center. You will be asked to arrive 45 minutes before your procedure time. You will first meet with a nurse in the pre-operative area. They will review your medical history, including all current medications and allergies. You will be asked to change into a medical gown prior to the procedure. If you choose to receive light sedation, an IV will be started. You will then be taken to the procedure room and positioned on the procedure table. The procedure generally takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Following your procedure, you will be taken to the recovery area to rest for 15 to 30 minutes before being discharged home.

**If you are taking any blood thinning medications (i.e. aspirin, Eliquis, Plavix, etc.), please notify our office. It is important we provide you with instructions on holding these medications if necessary.**

Additionally, if you are taking any antibiotics or have an active infection, it is important you notify our office. We may need to delay your procedure until your infection has cleared.

**If you choose to receive sedation for your procedure:** you may not have anything to eat or drink for eight (8) hours prior to your procedure. You may take your regular medications with a small sip of water. You must also have a responsible adult (over the age of 18) accompany you and remain on surgery center premises during your procedure to assume your care upon discharge. Your responsible adult must be present at the time you check in for your procedure. Taxi cabs and rideshares are not permitted (unless you have a responsible adult present to accompany you). For your safety, we cannot make exceptions to these requirements.

#### **What is the anticipated recovery from the procedure?**

You may experience a temporary increase in your pain following your procedure, due to irritation of the nerve. This pain will typically decrease within 1 to 2 weeks. You will receive detailed discharge instructions at the time of your procedure. You are encouraged to call our office should you have any questions.

**Rembrandt Surgery Center phone number: (480) 809-6266**

**The Pain Experts of Arizona phone number: (480) 550-9393**