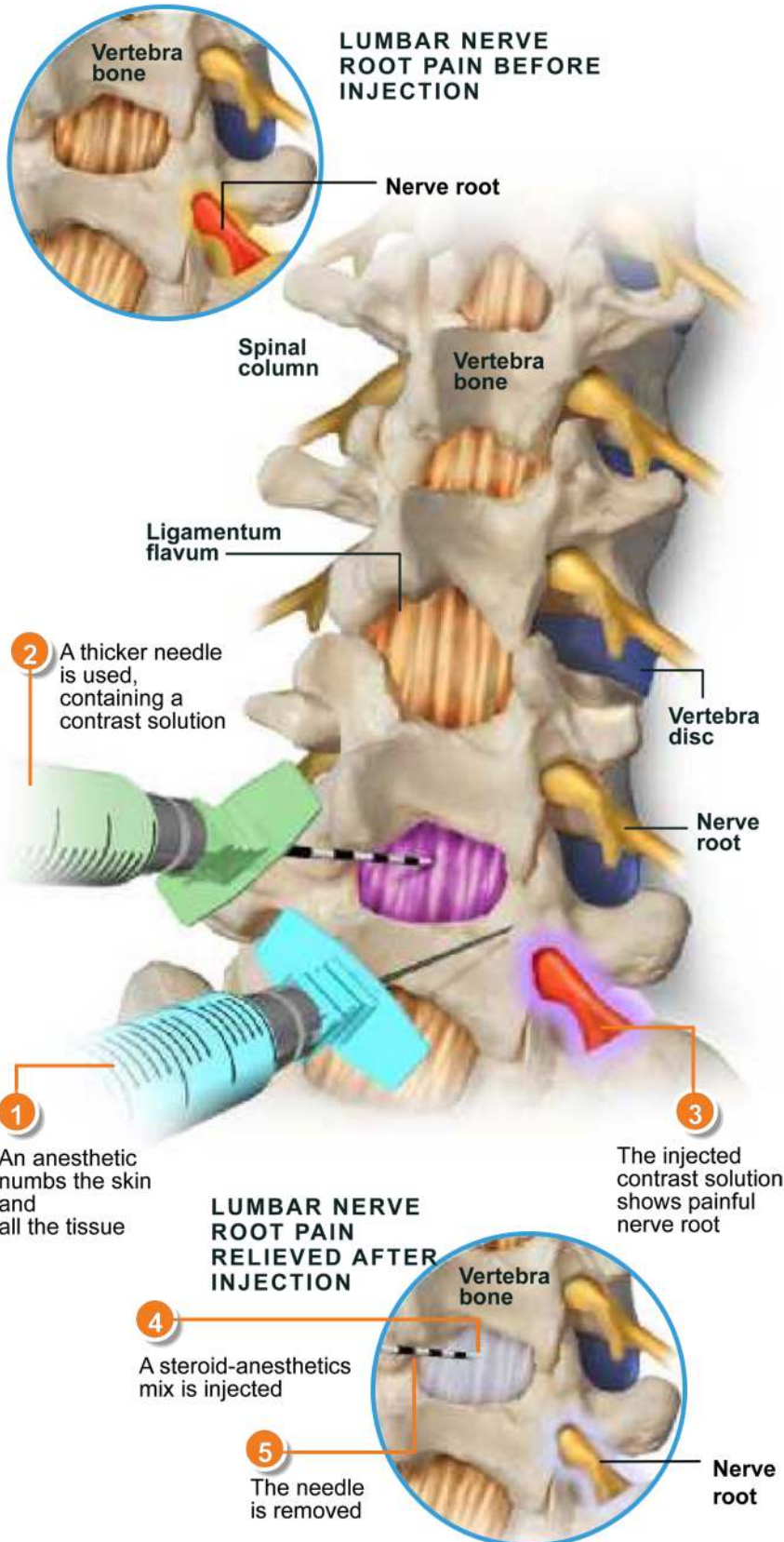




Lumbar Epidural Steroid Injection



This injection procedure is performed to relieve low back and radiating leg pain. The steroid medication can reduce the swelling and inflammation caused by spinal conditions, such as spinal stenosis, radiculopathy, sciatica and herniated discs. In some cases it may be necessary to repeat the procedure as many as three times to get the full benefit of the medication. However many patients get significant relief from only one or two injections.

In this procedure, the patient lays face down. A fluoroscope X-ray assists the physicians in locating the appropriate lumbar vertebra, nerve root and needle tip location.

STEP 1

A local anesthetic numbs the skin and deeper tissue, down to the spinal column.

STEP 2

Under X-Ray guidance the physician guides the needle towards the epidural space in the lumbar spine.

STEP 3

A contrast solution is injected so the physician can confirm the correct location of the needle tip.

STEP 4

A steroid-anesthetics mix is injected into the foraminal epidural space, bathing the painful nerve root with soothing medication.

STEP 5

The needle is removed, and a small band-aid will be used to cover the tiny needle puncture site.