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# Epidural or spinal anaesthesia injection

## home care instructions

Recently you have received an epidural, spinal or nerve block as part of your pain management plan during your operation, treatment or delivery. With this leaflet we would like to inform you about potential complications of these kinds of anaesthetics.

### Haematoma

Localised bleeding inside the spine can occur after the insertion of the needle or epidural tube or due to the removal of the tube from your back. This is a very rare complication which can cause pressure on your nerves or the spinal cord.

### Infection

Another very rare complication is an epidural abscess which results in a pocket of pus that builds up and causes swelling.

Both a haematoma and an infection can press against your nerves or spinal cord, potentially damaging the nerves.

**If you experience any of the following symptoms please contact the hospital immediately**

## What to look out for

Symptoms of a haematoma or infection in your back can be:

- Numbness and /or weakness in your legs.
- New, severe pain in your back, possibly radiating to your legs.
- Difficulty urinating, or urinary or bowel incontinence.
- Redness, pus, tenderness or pain at the epidural wound site on your back.
- Band of pain around the torso, possibly in combination with a fever.

## When to contact the hospital?

If you experience any of these symptoms, it could be a sign of a more serious complication - please contact one of the numbers provided and we will arrange for you to talk to the anaesthetist.

- During office hours, please call the Anaesthesiology outpatient Department.

- Outside office hours, please call the Obstetrics Department or the Emergency Department.

In the unlikely event that there is pressure on the spinal cord, it is crucial to diagnose and treat it as quickly as possible. This must be done by specialist doctors to prevent delays in treatment and long lasting damage to the nervous system.

## Vragen?

### Stel uw vraag via MijnOLVG

U kunt ons altijd bereiken via [MijnOLVG](#). Heeft u een algemene vraag over vergoeding of betaling? Neem dan contact op met uw zorgverzekeraar of kijk op [www.olvg.nl/zorgnota](http://www.olvg.nl/zorgnota). Meer informatie over bijvoorbeeld kosten, bereikbaarheid, onderzoeken en behandelingen staat op [www.olvg.nl](http://www.olvg.nl) maar u kunt ons natuurlijk ook bellen.

### Meer informatie online

- [www.olvg.nl/anesthesiologie](http://www.olvg.nl/anesthesiologie)

### Contact

#### polikliniek Anesthesiologie, locatie Oost

T 020 599 25 12 (werkdagen 8.15 – 16.15 uur)

E [polikliniekanesthesiologie-oost@olvg.nl](mailto:polikliniekanesthesiologie-oost@olvg.nl)

Poliplein P4, begane grond

#### polikliniek Anesthesiologie, locatie West

T 020 510 81 07 (werkdagen 8.15 – 16.15 uur)

E [polikliniekanesthesiologie-west@olvg.nl](mailto:polikliniekanesthesiologie-west@olvg.nl)

Route 5, begane grond.

#### afdeling Spoedeisende Hulp (SEH), locatie Oost

T 020 599 30 16 (dag en nacht bereikbaar)

#### afdeling Spoedeisende Hulp (SEH), locatie West

T 020 510 89 11 (dag en nacht bereikbaar)

Oost  
Oosterpark 9  
1091 AC Amsterdam

West  
Jan Tooropstraat 164  
1061 AE Amsterdam

Spuistraat  
Spuistraat 239 A  
1012 VP Amsterdam

Onze Algemene Voorwaarden zijn van toepassing: [www.olvg.nl/algemene-behandelvoorwaarden](http://www.olvg.nl/algemene-behandelvoorwaarden)

Aanmelden MijnOLVG via [www.mijnolvg.nl](http://www.mijnolvg.nl) | Klacht of opmerking: [www.olvg.nl/klacht](http://www.olvg.nl/klacht)

Redactie en uitgave: Marketing en Communicatie, 24 maart 2021, foldernr.3831-EN