

Title:	Percutaneous radiofrequency medial branch neurotomy for patients with chronic pain of facet joint origin
Issue/Rationale:	Chronic mechanical spine pain, including that of facet joint origin, is the most common musculoskeletal condition for which workers seek compensation.
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To evaluate the accuracy of various clinical methods used to determine the vertebral level of painful facet joints. • To evaluate the effects of medial branch radiofrequency neurotomy in persons with chronic spine pain of facet joint origin on pain, function, patient satisfaction and cost.
Anticipated Results/Impact:	Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of treatment should improve worker satisfaction and reduce costs.
Keywords:	Radiofrequency, medial branch neurotomy, chronic pain, facet joint
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From-To Dates:	2002 – 2004
Budget:	\$47,109
Funding Agency:	Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta