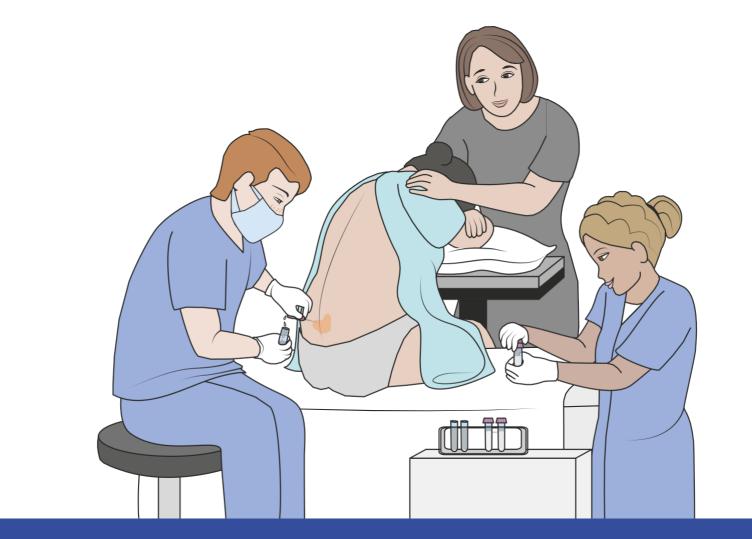
A lumbar puncture



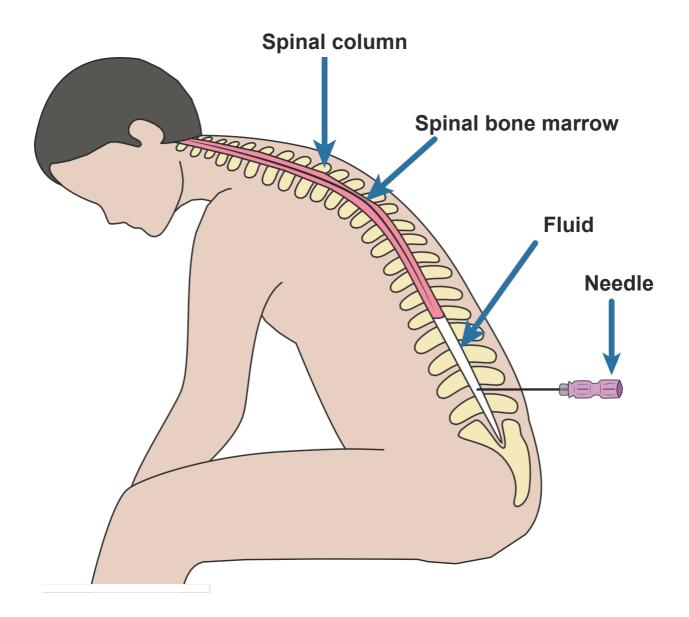




What is it?

A lumbar puncture means putting a needle into my back.

• The needle goes into my spinal column where there is fluid. Everybody has spinal fluid.

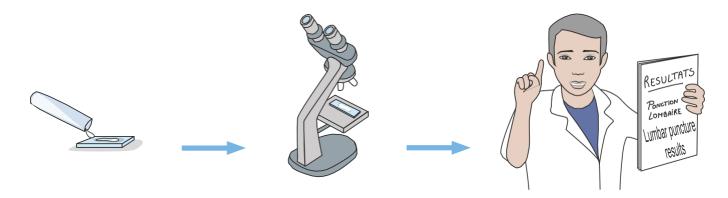


What is a lumbar puncture for?

A lumbar puncture lets the doctor take fluid from my spinal column.

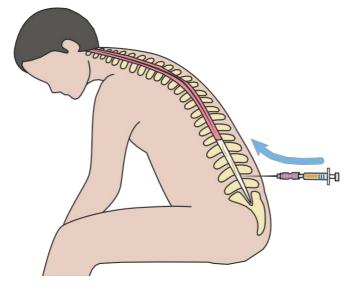


The results help the doctor to understand my illness better.



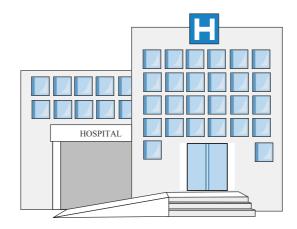
Sometimes a lumbar puncture is used to give me medicine.

The medicine goes into the fluid in my spinal column.



What happens?

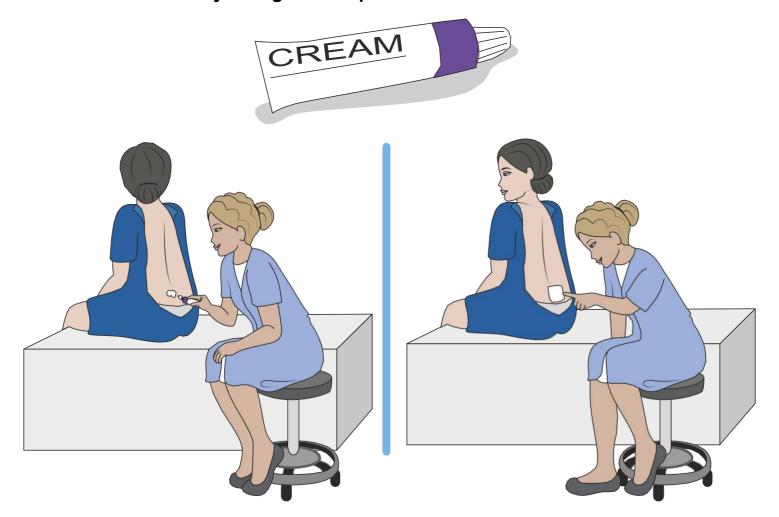
A lumbar puncture is done at the hospital or the clinic.



Before the lumbar puncture

A nurse puts an anaesthetic cream on my back.

The cream makes my skin go to sleep.

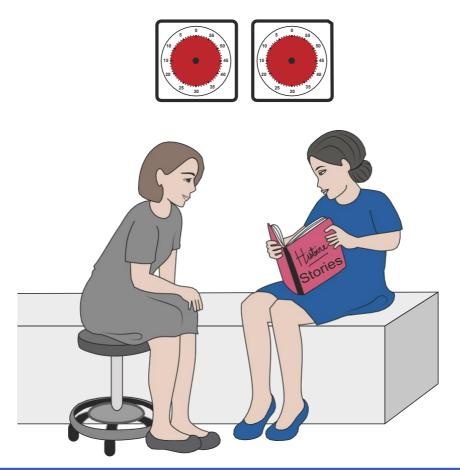


The doctor may give me medicine to help me relax.



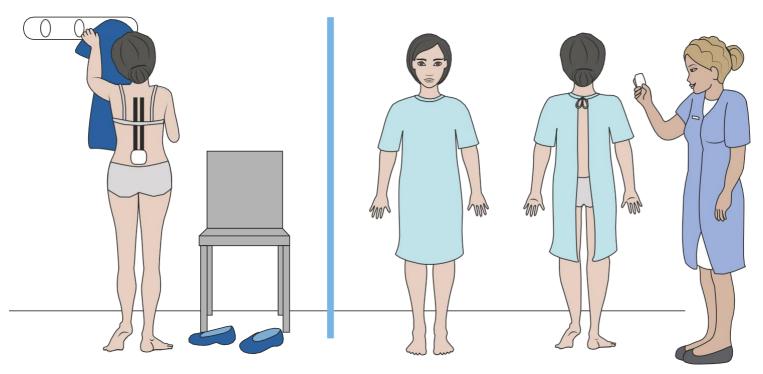
The person accompanying me can stay with me.





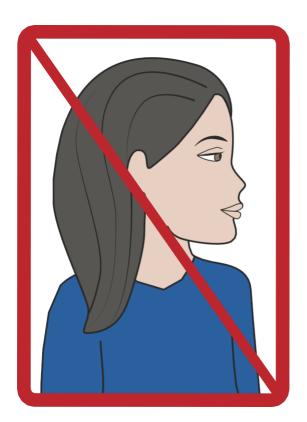
I take my clothes off

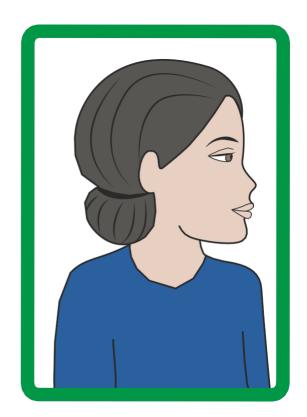
• The nurse gives me a white gown and takes off my plaster



La blouse est ouverte derrière

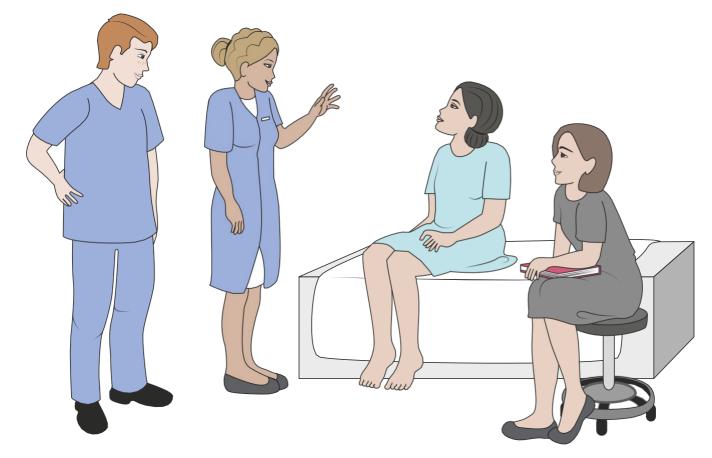
If I have long hair, I must tie it back.



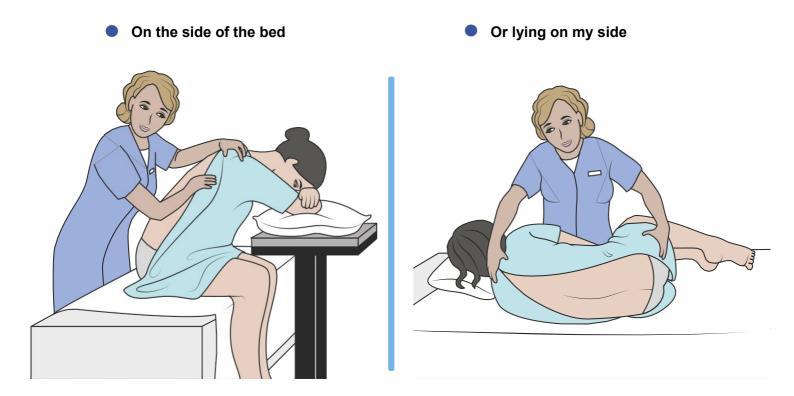


The doctor gives me a lumbar puncture

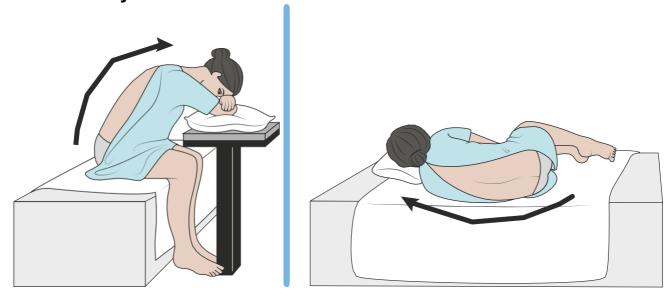
A nurse helps the doctor during the lumbar puncture



The nurse helps me into the right position



I need to arch my back



• The person accompanying me helps me stay in that position



This gas helps me stay calm and it hurts less.



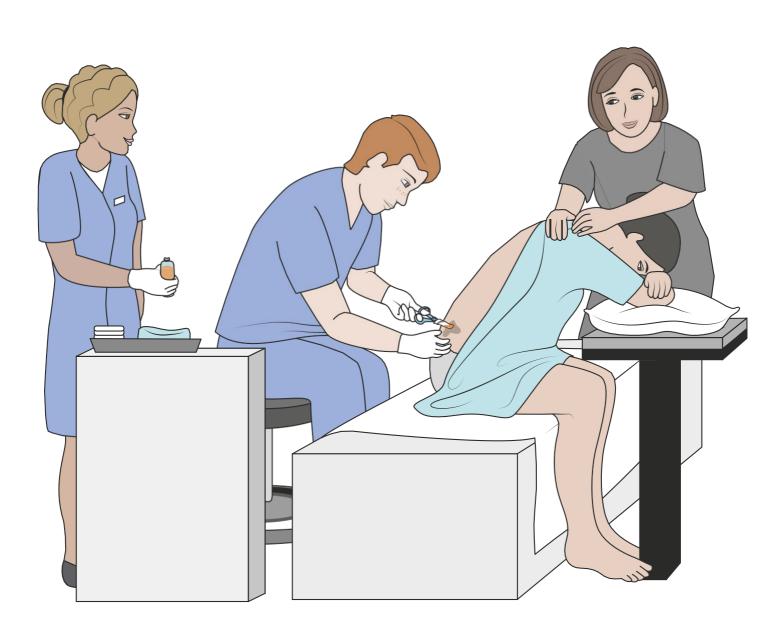
- I breathe through a mask until the treatment is over.
- To find out more, read our MEOPA fact-sheet



The doctor puts on gloves



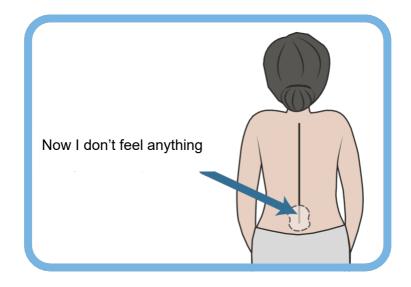
They clean my skin with a liquid



They give me an anaesthetic injection



The injection makes my skin go to sleep



They give me an anaesthetic injection

The injection makes my skin go to sleep



To make the puncture, the doctor puts a needle into my back

The needle is very thin



It's not nice



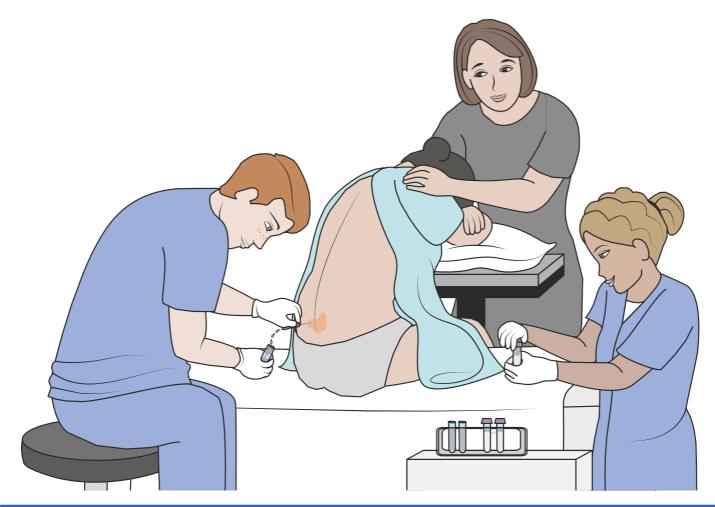
It is quick



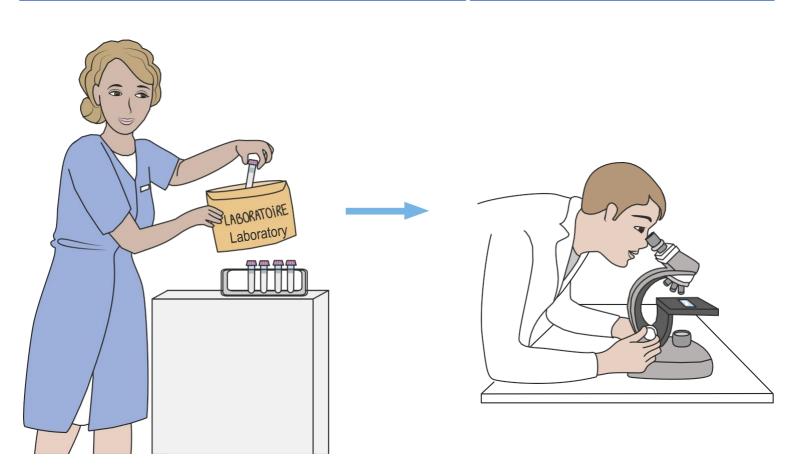
I must stay still



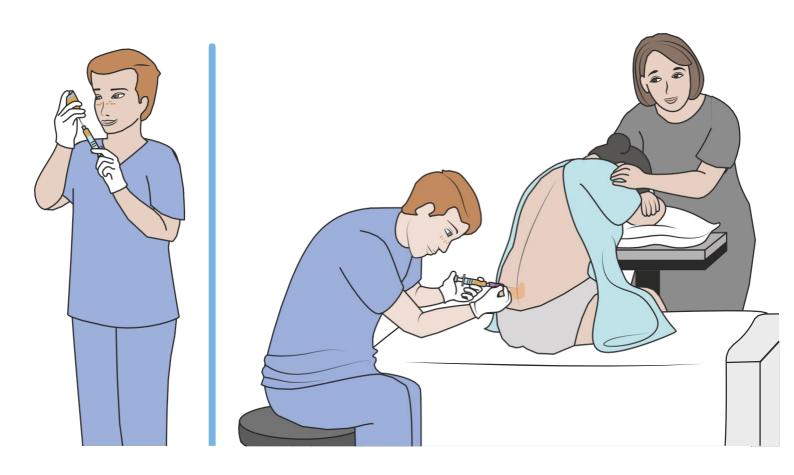
The fluid runs into small tubes



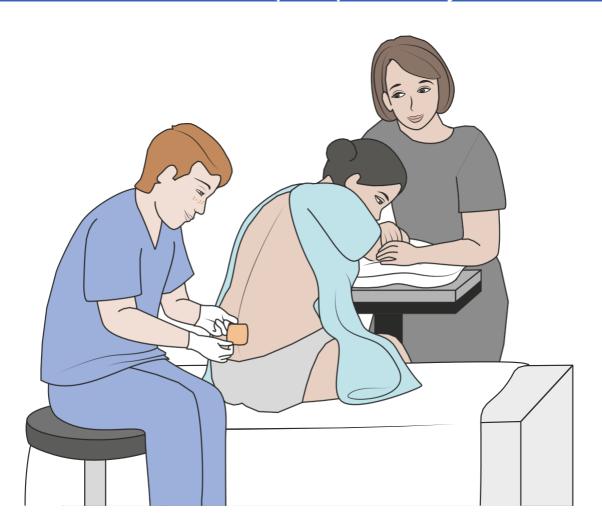
After, the nurse sends the tubes to the laboratory



Sometimes, the doctor puts medicine into my spinal column



The doctor takes the needle out and puts a plaster on my back



After the lumbar puncture

I stay lying on my back for a few hours

So I don't get a headache

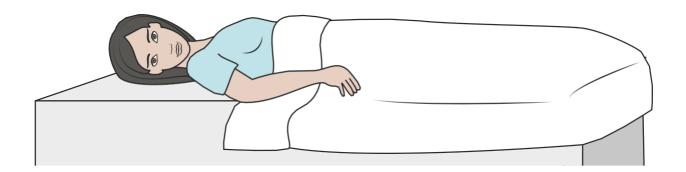






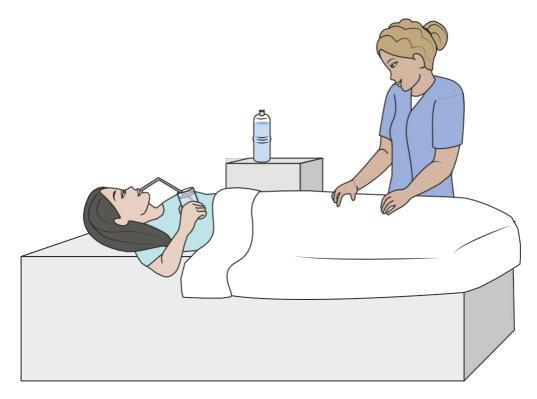






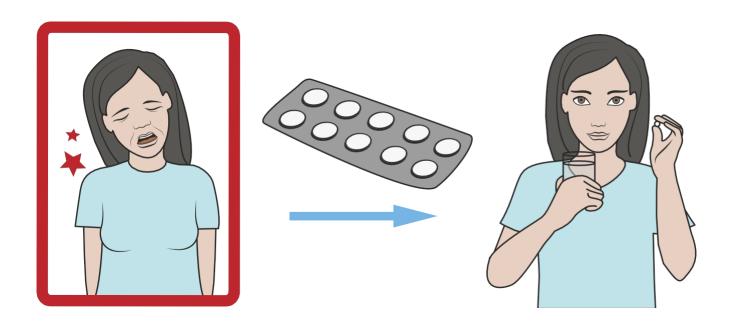
I stay in hospital under observation

I have to drink water



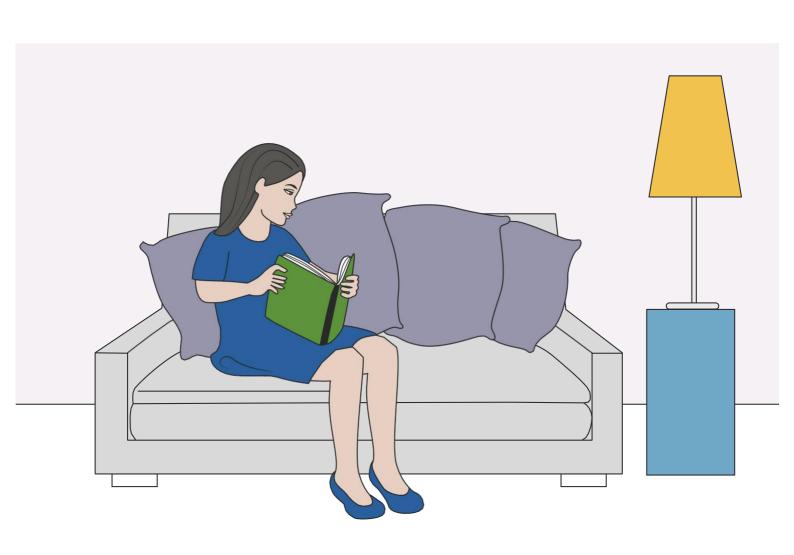
If my back hurts or I have a headache:

I can ask for a pill



The doctor decides when I can go home





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