

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