

Lisa Ledbetter, L. Ac.

Live Well

3900 S. Wadsworth Blvd Suite #400

Lakewood CO, 80235

Informed Consent Injection/Intradermal Therapy

Whenever a needle is introduced through the skin, inherent risks are present. Although the risks are small, the expected benefit from the procedure must outweigh the possible risks. Make sure that you have a thorough understanding of the expected benefit from the injection. The risks of injection depend on where the injection is made and what is being injected. If the injection is made in a large muscle, the risk of hitting vital structures is very small. Injections in the area of neurovascular bundles (where nerves, veins, and arteries travel together) have a higher risk of injury, and injections in the area of the lung organs have a higher risk of injuring them.

The risks of injection are:

1. Infection: With current standard procedure of sterile needles and antiseptic technique, this risk is very small, but it still exists. Redness and swelling are the early signs of infection. Any redness or swelling should be reported immediately to avoid the more serious complications of sepsis (bacteria in the blood stream) or osteomyelitis (infection of the bone).
2. Puncture of nerves, arteries, or veins: This risk varies greatly on the area of injection. When acupuncture point injections are made in the body of large muscles, this risk is very small. In other areas where these structures are larger and running together, the risk is increased. A nerve may be permanently damaged or bleeding may occur with puncture of a vein or artery.
3. Puncture of a lung or vital organ: Injections in the area of the chest could puncture a lung in which the serious complication of a tension pneumothorax could occur. In this condition the lung leaks air into the lung cavity progressively compressing the heart and lung. The person becomes short of breath, which can advance to death if untreated. Puncture of other vital organs is extremely unlikely and depends on the site of injection.
4. Allergic reaction to injected substance: Allergic reactions to homeopathic substances have not been reported, and, in fact, they are used to treat allergic conditions. However, the possibility still exists. An allergic reaction is usually hives, but a lung reaction could occur with severe shortness of breath, or the most serious reaction of anaphylaxis. In anaphylaxis there is the acute onset of shock, and this is a serious life-threatening emergency that could result in death.
5. Intradermals (tacts) may be left in the ear/body for up to a week post visit. Patients will be instructed at their visit how to properly remove and dispose of the intradermals/tacts.