

Number Tubes

Numbering Tubes

The CSF samples are withdrawn in a series of four tubes and must be numbered in the order of collection. Each tube is analyzed separately for components, such as glucose, protein, and bacteria.

Supine Position After Procedure

Supine-spine After Puncture

After a lumbar puncture, the patient should return to a supine position for at least two hours to minimize the risk of developing a spinal headache. Encourage the patient to drink plenty of fluids and monitor for headache and signs of possible infection.

Contraindications

Increased ICP (Intracranial Pressure)

Up-arrow Pressure-cooker Cranium

Lumbar puncture is contraindicated in patients with increased ICP. If the patient has increased CSF, puncturing the lumbar area will cause the fluid to leak and decrease CSF pressure in the spinal column. This will cause the CSF pressure in the brain to shift towards low CSF pressure in the spinal column and cause acute neurological damage.

Infection at Puncture Site

Infectious-bacteria at Puncture Site

Lumbar puncture is contraindicated in patients with an infection at the puncture site. The presence of skin infection may be transferred into the CSF as the needle is inserted into the lumbar area.