

Welcome to the Exciting World of Platelet Rich Plasma Injection

William Clark Jernigan, MD

The use of platelet rich plasma to treat certain orthopedic disorders is an exciting advancement in the treatment of common musculoskeletal conditions. Exhaustive scientific studies have revealed that platelet rich plasma can afford significant relief of pain, swelling, and stiffness related to common orthopedic disorders. Platelet rich plasma has been successful at lessening pain in and around joints such as the knee, ankle, elbow, and shoulder.

Dr. Jernigan is very excited to be the value leader in the Greenville area for platelet rich plasma injections. Your treatment plan for your unique problem will be made by a board-certified orthopedic surgeon. Dr. Jernigan has 34 years of experience treating pain and dysfunction associated with disorders of the tendons and joints. Every patient will have a thorough musculoskeletal evaluation by Dr. Jernigan prior to the procedure. After an appropriate evaluation and discussion, if you would like to proceed, we will then schedule the procedure.

Our team uses a system for platelet rich plasma injections that is a “closed system”. That means that the platelet rich plasma used is derived from your body. It is not exposed to a non-sterile environment. From start to finish the system is protected from outside viruses, bacteria, dust, etc.

The procedure in its entirety takes about 1 hour. After checking in you will meet briefly with Dr. Jernigan for a final review and to go over any questions you may have. A technician will escort you to our office surgical room where you will be comfortably positioned in the operative chair and the procedure will then be conducted in the following steps. First, a technician will draw a vial of your blood. The blood draw is very similar to the technique used when having blood drawn for routine lab work. Your own blood is then processed with our sterile closed system to yield a plasma specimen with the desired platelet concentration yielding the desirable white blood cell ratios.

The injection site will then be prepared with a surgical cleanser. The area of injection will be anesthetized. This is done with a local anesthetic and is usually perceived by patients as feeling like a minor prick. There is sometimes a slight sense of burning noted. The injection of your platelet rich plasma is then performed which only takes a few minutes. A Band-Aid is all that is needed as a dressing.

If the procedure is performed for a tendon disorder most patients will notice some discomfort such as mild to severe soreness for up to 24 hours. The pain can be distracting, so plan a light day following the procedure as well as the day after. You can then pursue your normal daily activity. It is not unusual that a small area of bruising may appear around the injection site.

The duration of relief is widely variable. The healing response in the tendon can take up to 3 months to significantly heal the area of pain. We closely follow our patients in an attempt to better refine expectations about the duration of pain relief.

3150 Hwy 153 | Piedmont, SC 29673
Phone 864-295-1231 | Fax 864-295-0095
JerniganShoulderRelief.com

