

Pilot Round Tip™ Needle FAQs

What are the benefits of a round tip needle?

A round tip needle will reduce the risk to cause trauma to nerves and reduce the risk of accidental intra-vascular injection. An accidental intra-vascular injection of a steroid solution can cause an occlusion of that vessel and result in a spinal cord infarct. Cutting accidentally into a nerve or injecting medication into a nerve can result in permanent nerve damage. The round tip of the Pilot needle will push structures like nerves or blood vessels aside, rather than cutting into them. While the round tip can not completely avoid this risk of an intra-vascular injection, it can significantly reduce that chance.

What are the benefits of having the medication port at the tip of the needle?

The medication port at the tip of needle will allow for the deposit of medication in closer proximity to the nerve without causing painful paresthesia. Other needles have ports on the side. With those needles the tip of the needle will need to be brought closer to the nerve in order to inject the medication into the same plain as with the Pilot needle and therefore increasing the risk of touching the nerve and causing painful paresthesia.

Why does our end cap require a turn while competitor's can just be pulled straight out?

Our cap ensures that the stylet will remain in place during the needle placement. Needles with the port on the side or cutting needles do not require a locking mechanism. The design of the Pilot needle causes pressure on the tip of the stylet during needle placement and could cause the stylet to be pushed back into the needle. To avoid this, a simple locking mechanism was designed to secure the stylet inside the needle. Another advantage of the locking mechanism is that by turning the stylet and opening the locking mechanism, the stylet "loosens" and can now more easily pulled out without being stuck inside the needle. This avoids an inadvertent dislodging of the needle tip.

Why don't you have pre-bent needles? Can the needle be bent?

Bends in the needle are very specific to each physician, his experience and his preferred technique. Most physicians prefer to bend the tip of the needle themselves to meet their needs. The Pilot can be bent at any angle and at any distance from the tip as desired.

Will the stylet remain fully engaged if the needle is bent?

Yes, the Pilot Round Tip™ needle will remain fully engaged and will function the same way as a straight needle.

Why do you have to use an introducer needle?

Since Pilot is a round tip, non-cutting needle, we recommend using a sharp introducer needle. A sharp introducer needle is easier to insert through the skin and it also stabilizes the needle. The introducer needle itself is too short to reach spinal nerve or spinal blood vessels to cause any damage.

The "needle through needle" technique combines the advantage of a sharp needle piercing easily through the skin and a blunt needle to be advanced into close proximity to a nerve with a reduced risk of nerve or vascular damage.

How difficult is it to steer your needle?

The round tip of the Pilot needle actually increases the tactile feel and gives better feedback about the tissue being traversed. While the Pilot needle, because of the round tip, steers somewhat more "sluggish" than a cutting needle, the better tactile feedback is especially appreciated by experienced physicians. The Pilot Round Tip™ needle does steer easier than other round tip or flat top needle designs. During the development of the Pilot needle special emphasis was put into the design of the tip to retain some of the feel and ease of use of a sharp needle. The result is a needle design which allows easy placement of the needle combined with increased safety.