

Within the **thecal sac**, there are 3 layers of meningeal membranes: the outer, **dura mater** is tough and protective and this forms the outer part of the **dural sac** (in practice, the terms intrathecal and intradural are often used interchangeably).

Abnormalities outside this layer are described as **epidural/peridural/extradural**.

The middle layer, the **arachnoid mater** (so called due to the spider's web type appearance) is in direct contact with the cerebrospinal fluid, which bathes the entire spinal cord and brain.

Inflammation of this layer is termed **arachnoiditis** and scar tissue may be described as **intrathecal** (i.e. inside the thecal sac).

The inner layer is the **pia mater**.

The initial inflammation induces a process of scarring in the arachnoid membrane.

This may also affect the dura and the area outside the dura, so that **epidural fibrosis** and **arachnoiditis** often co-exist.

Alert: <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/neurostim.html>

