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If you need this information in large print, easy read, on audiotape or in another language please call 0800 7838058 or e-mail pals@dchft.nhs.uk

If you wish to obtain a list of the sources used to develop this information leaflet please call 0800 7838058 or e-mail patient.info@dchft.nhs.uk

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AutoFuser Elastomeric Pump for Regional Anaesthesia

Patient Information Sheet for Elastomeric Local Anaesthetic Pump

Please Read Carefully



The purpose of this information leaflet is to explain how an AutoFuser Elastomeric Pump helps to control pain. It also provides information on what you need to be aware of when you have been sent home with one in place.

What is AutoFuser Elastomeric Pump?

An AutoFuser Elastomeric Pump is a single use elastomeric pump used to deliver local anaesthetic through a nerve block tube (called a catheter) providing you with pain relief.

The catheter is placed by the anaesthetist who will then attach the AutoFuser Elastomeric Pump to the catheter. They will select the flow rate at which the local anaesthetic will be delivered.

How does it work?

There are two layers of elastic inside the pump, when the pump is filled with local anaesthetic the elastic layers expand. The force of this will push the local anaesthetic into the tubing and then through the catheter.

How can I stop the pump?

As you will have been shown, there is a clamp on the tubing that will allow you to stop the flow of local anaesthetic from the pump. You should **only** clamp the tubing if you see signs of local anaesthetic side effects (called toxicity). For a list of symptoms please refer to the local anaesthetic toxicity section on the last page of this leaflet. Please ensure that you clamp the pump as you have been taught.

How can you tell if the pump is working?

The balloon inside the pump will shrink as it delivers your local anaesthetic, so as long as the pump is getting smaller it is working.

Can I have a bath or shower with the pump?

This will depend on the advice from your Anaesthetist. If you take a shower or bath, please make sure that the pump is kept dry and out of the water.

Elastomeric Local Anaesthetic Pump:

The AutoFuser Elastomeric Pump contains a local anaesthetic solution to keep you comfortable whilst at home.

0.125% Levobupivacaine (Chirocaine) is the local anaesthetic used.

Over a period of time, the balloon will automatically shrink as it gives you more local anaesthetic. Local anaesthetic is being continually given to you.

You have been given a fixed flow pump. This means you will be given a fixed amount of local anaesthetic around the nerves over a fixed period of time.

- You should take Paracetamol regularly even if you are not in pain.
- You will also be given a 100ml bottle of Oramorph to be taken ONLY as prescribed, if you have a lot of pain. The use of morphine in this situation is not addictive.. If you are in pain take the Oramorph, DON'T leave the pain until it becomes unbearable.
- Do not disconnect the pump yourself unless you feel unwell – see local anaesthetic toxicity section.
- Always keep the pump in the carry bag provided and ensure the bag is closed
- Do not expose the pump to direct light
- When you are upright (standing or sitting) ensure the carry bag containing the pump is kept at waist level
- When you lying down, ensure the carry bag/pump is kept at bed level
- Do not place the pump under bedding, inside clothing or next to bare skin
- Do not place the pump on any form of heat source, e.g. radiator, or in direct sunlight
- If the pump becomes damaged or leaks, please notify the district nurse immediately.
- If a leak is noticed around the dressing, this does not mean the block is not working. The catheter does not need to be removed.
- It is possible that as time goes by more sensation returns to your limb. This may be “pins and needles” or even pain. Again this does not mean the local anaesthetic is not working. Continue the treatment and do not remove.
- The catheter will be removed by your district nurse. It is not stitched in and will come out easily and steadily. Removal will not be painful. The nurse will need to ensure the catheter is completely removed by ensuring the blue tip of the catheter is present when removed.

Local Anaesthetic Toxicity Check

Look for the following NEW signs and symptoms:

- Tingling around your mouth
- Metallic taste in your mouth
- Ringing in your ears
- Feeling drunk
- Dizziness
- Blurred vision
- Muscle twitches

In case of any doubt, DISCONNECT THE PUMP as taught, and contact the Community Nurse or GP.

Your Community Nurse is.....

She/he can be contacted on.....

Between:.....

Evening and Night time (after 4:00pm)

Contact.....Hospital (Tel.....)

Ask for the Community Nurse on call.

Do not reconnect the pump

Contact Numbers

Ridgeway Ward *Orthopaedic*

Extension 5561 or 5562

The sister in charge will usually be able to give advice.