



Peripheral Nerve Catheter and Pump Instructions

Acute Pain Answering Service: 732-271-3547

You have received a peripheral nerve block and peripheral nerve catheter to help with your pain control after surgery. The local anesthetic medicine that was injected before your surgery is very strong and should cause numbness and immobility that lasts approximately 12-18 hours (can be shorter or longer). A weaker version of that same medicine is in the On-Q pump attached to the catheter. After the initial block begins to wear off you will notice that your arm/leg will begin to wake up but will remain partially numb and weak because that weaker medicine will be pumped into the catheter until the On-Q pump is empty or removed.

1. Your pump has been set at _____ **ml/hour.**
2. While the catheter is in you will be contacted daily by a member of our staff
3. If you experience the sensation of ringing in your ears or a metallic taste in your mouth while the catheters is in, turn off the pump immediately by squeezing the clamp closed and call the answering service (number above).
4. If the area around where the catheter enters your skin becomes red, hot or develops a discharge (it is normal to see a little clear fluid leak out) call the answering service.
5. **If you have pain, you should turn up the pump and take 2 of the pain pills your surgeon prescribed.** Don't increase the pump more than once per hour and don't set the pump higher than **10**. If these changes don't help, call the answering service.
6. While the nerve catheter is in **you may not shower or take a bath.**
7. Because your limb is partially numb and weak you must be very careful to protect it.
 - Do not apply ice directly to your skin (over a dressing/bandage is fine).
 - Put a pillow or some padding under that limb while you are resting.
 - Do not lean or put weight on that limb
 - Wear your sling/leg immobilizer until the catheter is out and your sensation has returned to normal.
8. If the catheter accidentally comes out, simply throw it and the pump away and take the pain medicine your surgeon has prescribed.
9. **Remove your catheter on: _____ (date)** when it's empty (will look like an apple core). Simply remove the clear dressing that covers the catheter and slowly pull it out. You may notice some tugging at the skin which is normal. If you feel electric pulses going down your arm/leg while you pull it out, stop and call the answering service.

I, and/or my guardian have been given verbal instructions, a demonstration of the On-Q pain pump, and these written instructions and understand them:

Discharging Nurse: _____ **Date/Time:** _____

Patient/Guardian: _____ **Date/Time:** _____

Anesthesiologist: _____ **Date/Time:** _____