

Post-Operative Instructions for Pain Pumps

Pain pumps are devices which provide a continuous infusion of local anesthetic such as Lidocaine or Marcaine directly into the surgical area. This type of pain relief system makes it possible for the patient to utilize less postoperative IV and oral pain medications, which can be associated with excessive sedation, nausea and vomiting, and other negative side effects. Pain pumps also help eliminate possible abuse by patients of narcotics or risking addiction. **Studies have shown that with the use of the pain pump, surgical recovery is quicker, patients feel better, and are better able to care for themselves which ultimately leads to faster healing.**

The small pain pump catheter inserted directly into the surgical area and set to begin infusing at the end of your procedure. This ensures that by the time you come around from the anesthetic you will not be suffering in any way. The pain pump may be left in to deliver local anesthetic for up to 3 days following surgery.

You may be instructed to remove your own pain pump in the day or two following your surgery. This is done simply and painlessly by removing the clear plastic adhesive covering the pain pump catheters, grasping the catheters between your thumb and index finger, and gently pulling them completely out. They are fairly long catheters (up to 6 inches!) so be patient and just keep pulling. You may then cover the insertion site with a small band-aid and wash that area the next day. The system is designed to decrease the need for oral medications. It is possible, however, to have breakthrough pain. Please call the office at (847)968-2401 if you have any questions at all about your pump.

Sometimes, the catheter slips out unexpectedly. If it does, it cannot be replaced. This is **NOT** an emergency. Place a gauze or band-aid over the site and call the office during regular office hours.

CAUTION!

Please clamp the tubing and contact Dr. Tijunelis at (847) 968-2401 if you experience the following:

- **A sudden increase in pain**
- **A metallic taste in the mouth**
- **Hives or Rash**
- **Numbness in the mouth, lips or tongue**
- **Excitation, restlessness, or excessive drowsiness**