

Care of Elastomeric pump – Patient on Home Ambulatory Nerve Block

A balloon infuser is used to constantly deliver local anaesthetic medication through this catheter to provide pain relief in the area of your operation, so as to achieve comfort as well as facilitate exercise.



Care and Management (Procedures/ Nursing Interventions):

How do I know if the pump is working?

The balloon delivers medication slowly. You might start to notice a change in size after 24hrs. The balloon will begin to get looser, wrinkles and gradually become smaller.

How do I know when then medication will complete?

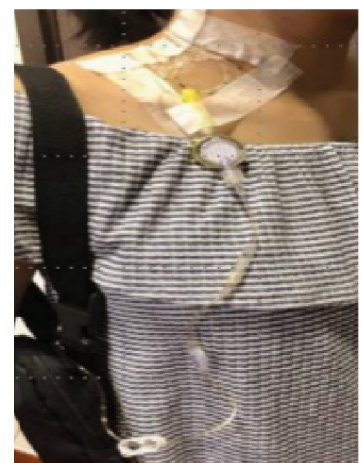
Depending on the size and rate of your balloon, it may take 2-5 days to deliver all the medicine. The balloon will be flat and a hard tube can be felt in the middle of the balloon.

When do I need to adjust rate regulator?

If your balloon infuser comes with an adjustable rate function, the anaesthetist/APS team will instruct you on how to use this function.

How to Care for Your Catheter at Home?

- A. Do not wet the catheter site and balloon infuser.
- B. Make sure the white clamp on the tubing is open (moves freely on the tubing).
- C. Take a picture of the catheter site and send to APS daily.
- D. Keep the operative limb well protected in a sling during the infusion period.



When do I remove the catheter and balloon infuser?

You may be instructed to remove the catheter on your own at the end of the therapy OR scheduled for a review at Specialist Outpatient Clinic (SOC).

The below is the instruction for removing the nerve block catheter:

- Remove the dressing covering the catheter site.
- Grasp the catheter close to the skin and **gently** pull on the catheter.
- If it becomes hard to remove or stretches, then STOP pulling and call APS phone.
- After you remove the catheter, check the catheter tip for the black marking to ensure the entire catheter was removed.
- Take a picture of the catheter tip and tubing and send to APS phone.
- Apply plaster over the catheter site and remove the next day.



If you experience any of the following:

- A. Check catheter site and tubing connection daily
 - If site is red or tender
 - If develop fever
 - If catheter is disconnected

- B. Check medication effect
 - If experience increased numbness/weakness

- C. Look for signs of local anaesthetic toxicity
 - Numbness of the mouth and tongue
 - Abnormal sound/ringing in the ears
 - Visual disturbances
 - Muscle twitching or fit
 - Giddiness

Please **STOP** infusion and call Woodlands Health Acute Pain Service (APS) phone at 9011 0625. Otherwise, please proceed to Emergency Department.

