

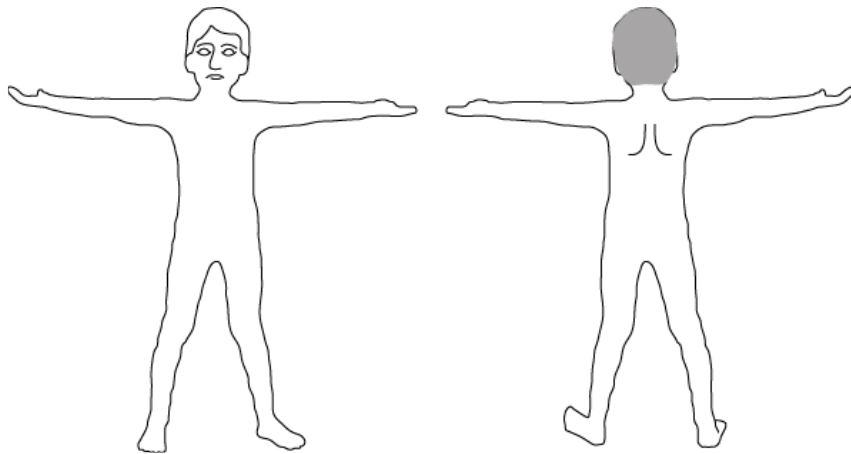


Peripheral Nerve Continuous Infusion

What is a peripheral nerve infusion?

A peripheral nerve infusion is one way of giving pain relief right at the site of surgery or injury. After your child is asleep, a small catheter is placed under the skin into the space containing nerves that provide feeling (sensation) to the surgery area. Medicine is given through that catheter to reduce the pain messages from being carried to the brain along the nerves.

Your child's catheter is aimed at this area (circle/shade on picture):



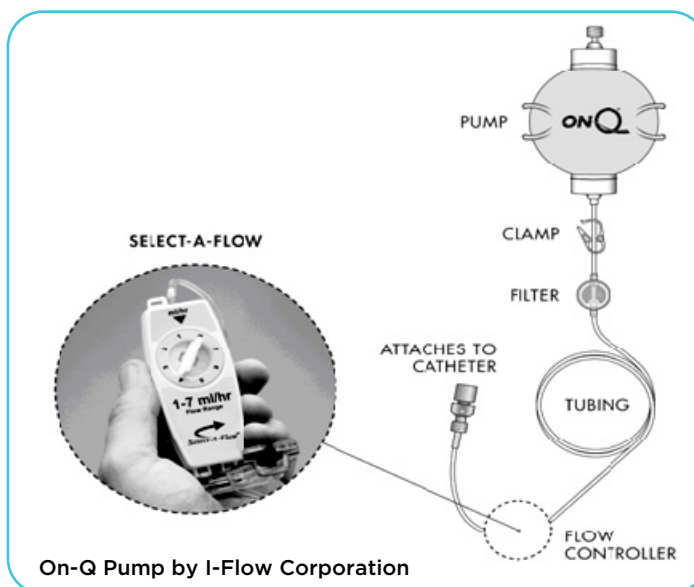
What medicine will my child receive?

Local anesthetics (numbing medicines) are given through the peripheral nerve catheter. Since these focus on one area, there are fewer side effects (nausea, constipation, drowsiness) compared to traditional opioid pain medicines (morphine, oxycodone). This helps your child begin moving comfortably and feeling good, so they can get better faster. Your child may also be prescribed pain medicines by mouth to help with pain.

How does the infusion work?

Most peripheral nerve catheters have local anesthetics going into them continuously at a very slow rate. The catheter is connected to tubing and a bag of medicine inside a 'balloon' type pump.

The doctor has set the pump to deliver the amount of medicine needed for your child's pain.



How long will it last?

There are several sizes of balloon pumps. Each pump is designed to deliver a pre-set amount of medicine over 2 to 5 days. At the end of that time all the medicine will be delivered and the bag will be empty. Since the pump delivers the medicine very slowly over a few days, it may be hard to notice the balloon slowly getting smaller.

Care at home

- Keep the dressing clean and dry. No baths while catheter is in place.
- Some leaking under the clear bandage tape is expected. Add another clear bandage tape to keep it in place as needed.
- Check all connections of the catheter, tubing and pump to be sure they are tight and without kinks. If the system becomes disconnected, remove the catheter.
- Check that the white clamp is open (moves freely on the tubing).
- Protect the numb area from injury by changing position often, and being careful with heat and cold packs.
- Keep the pump in a bag outside your child's clothing and away from ice packs.
- Keep all labels on the pump and tubing to remind all caregivers of the medicine.
- **No MRIs** while catheter is in place.
- If the catheter is in your child's arm or shoulder area, use a sling to support the arm. If the catheter is in your child's leg, check for weakness before getting up and use crutches as taught by Physical Therapy.

To Learn More

- Children's Operator
206-987-2000

Ask to speak to:

(provider name)

- www.seattlechildrens.org

When do I call the doctor?

- Increase in pain
- Numb or tingling lips or mouth
- Metal taste in the mouth
- Ringing in the ears
- Sudden increase in anxiety
- Dizziness
- Sudden tiredness
- Difficulty breathing
- Redness, swelling, or leaking at the catheter site
- Any other concerns or questions

How do I take the catheter out at home?

When the pump has delivered all the medicine the 'balloon' will be empty and flat, then can be safely taken out at home.

1. Tell your child that it is time to take off the tape and the catheter. You may use the tape remover product given to you.
2. Gently remove tape over the catheter, holding the catheter in place with one finger where it goes into the skin. Do not use scissors.
3. Hold the catheter between your fingers close to the skin. With gentle steady pulling, slide the catheter out from underneath the skin.
4. **STOP** and call the health care provider on-call if the catheter seems stuck or your child has sharp shooting pain.
5. You may place a Band-Aid over the spot where the catheter came out.
6. Place the catheter, tubing and pump in a plastic bag. Bring it to your next doctor appointment for recycling, or throw all parts away.

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers 206-987-2280 (TTY)

Questions?

All members of the team are committed to help your child be comfortable. After your child goes home, we will call daily to make sure that the amount of pain medicine is just right to keep your child comfortable and the pump is working safely.

If you have questions, or would like to speak with a healthcare provider, please page the provider on call.

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

2008, 2009, 2010 Seattle Children's, Seattle, Washington. All rights reserved.
