

Elastomeric (OnQ) Pain Pump

To help control pain after surgery, your doctor may order a pain pump called an elastomeric (OnQ) pain pump. The pump is filled with a numbing medicine and connects to a tiny tube called a catheter. The catheter is placed under your skin near your incision during surgery. The medicine numbs the nerves by your incision to help reduce pain.

The pump will give you medicine at a rate ordered by your doctor. The rate on the pump cannot be changed. The pump will give you medicine over 2 to 4 days. You will have a small pouch you can wear to hold the pump in place. When the pump is empty, the tube is removed and the pump and tube are thrown away.

Care of Your Site and the Pump

- The pump tubing will be held in place by special skin glue. A clear dressing will be placed over the site where the tube goes into your skin to keep it clean. The dressing should stay in place as long as you need the pump.
- Look at the site around your tube each day. It is normal to have some leakage or drainage from the site. The pump will still work if you see some leakage.
- Make sure the clamp on the tube near the pump is open.
- Do not squeeze the pump bulb.
- Keep the pump away from extreme heat, such as a heating pad.
- **Do not take a tub bath** while you have the pump in place. If you are allowed to shower while the pump is in place:
 - ▶ Cover the filter on the pump with plastic wrap (Saran wrap) then tape it down to keep it dry. When you are done with your shower, remove the plastic wrap and tape.
 - ▶ Keep the pump dry. Dry the pump if it gets wet.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

When the Pump is Empty

The pump will get smaller as it empties. You should be able to feel a hard tube in the middle of the pump bulb when it is empty. You may need to go to your doctor's office to have the pump removed, or you may be told to remove the tube at home.

- **If the tube comes out** of your skin before the medicine is gone, it cannot be put back in. Follow the steps below for How to Remove the Pain Pump Tube.

How to Remove the Pain Pump Tube

If you are told to remove the tube, follow these steps:

1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water. Rinse and dry with a clean towel.
2. Remove the clear dressing. Peel the dressing back from one edge. Loosen it from around the site where the tube goes into your skin.
3. Hold the tube close to your skin and gently pull the tube. It should come out easily. When the tube is completely out of your skin, you should see a black tip on the end of the tube.
 - ▶ **If the tube is hard to remove or it starts to stretch, stop and call your doctor.**
 - ▶ **If the tube does not have a black tip on the end when it is removed, call your doctor.**
4. Place a band-aid over the site where the tube was removed. You can remove the band-aid the next day.
5. If you have more than one tube in place, repeat these steps until each tube is removed.
6. Throw the tube, pump and dressing into a trash bag.
7. Wash your hands with soap and warm water. Rinse and towel dry.

When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor if you have any of the following:

- Pain that is not controlled
- Your tube falls out
- Confusion
- Problems breathing
- Redness, swelling, warmth, new bruising or pain at the surgery site
- Metal taste in your mouth
- Nausea or vomiting
- Blurred vision or dizziness
- Ringing in your ears