

ON-Q Pump: Peripheral Nerve Block Therapy



The ON-Q Pump provides post-operative (after surgery) pain relief. It decreases (lessens) the use of pain medication with a continuous infusion of local anesthetic (numbing medicine). It numbs the area where the patient had surgery.

The ON-Q Pump has a pre-filled, locked pump connected to a catheter placed under the skin. When the pump is empty, the infusion is finished, and the catheter will be removed. The pump will not be completely flat. This takes about 2 days.

Important Things to Know

Bathing

- Do not shower or bathe until the catheter is removed.

Dressing/Wound Care

- You must keep the dressing dry.
- Do not change the dressing. This may dislodge the catheter.
- If the dressing becomes loose or wet, secure it with tape.
- If the dressing completely comes off, call the pain medicine doctor right away.

Activity

- As directed by your doctor.

Medicine

- The medication in the pump is a local anesthetic (numbing medicine) called ropivacaine.
- It is okay to give your child pain medication every 4 to 6 hours, as needed, or as directed by your doctor.

How to Remove Catheter:

- Remove the dressing covering the catheter.
- Hold tubing and gently pull on tubing until the catheter is completely removed. If there is resistance, stop pulling on the catheter, wait 30 minutes and try again.
- A change in position may help loosen the catheter.
- Inspect the end of the catheter for the gold marking, this indicates that the catheter is completely removed.
- The catheter and pump should be thrown in the regular trash.
- If the catheter does not come out easily, you should stop and call your doctor.

When to Call the Doctor:

- For uncontrolled pain that does not go away after taking the pain medication.
- Redness, swelling, tenderness, or discharge (drainage) on the skin near the catheter.
- Ringing of the ears.
- A metallic taste in the mouth.

Pain Medicine

How to Reach Help:

- Call 323-660–2450 and ask the operator to page the Inpatient Pain Medicine doctor on call.
- In case of an emergency, call 911.

***References available upon request.**