

Targeted Drug Delivery

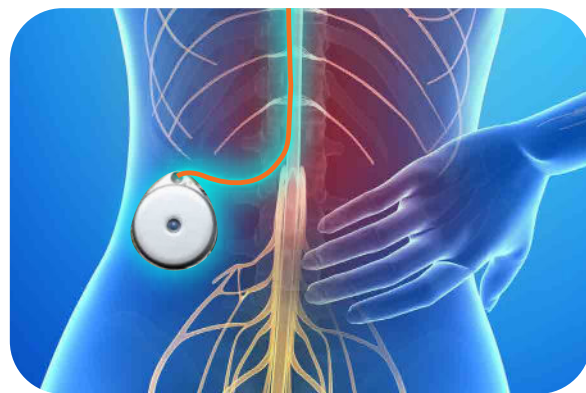


WHAT IS TARGETED DRUG DELIVERY?

Targeted drug delivery is a medical treatment designed to deliver pain medication or therapeutic agents directly to the spinal cord area using an intrathecal pain pump. This approach is primarily used to manage severe, chronic pain that has not responded well to oral medications or other pain management strategies.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The intrathecal drug delivery system, which includes a programmable pump and catheter, releases small amounts of medication directly to the fluid around your spine. These medications, often opioids such as morphine or hydromorphone, interact with pain receptors in the spinal cord, helping reduce the transmission of pain signals to the brain. This targeted delivery method can result in more effective pain management.



Benefits of intrathecal pain pumps include improved pain relief, fewer side effects, and a better quality of life for individuals with intractable pain.

WHO IS A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR TARGETED DRUG DELIVERY?

Intrathecal pain pumps are typically used for conditions associated with chronic and severe pain, such as:

- **Failed back surgery syndrome**
- **Neuropathic pain**
- **Cancer-related pain**
- **Complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS)**

Targeted drug delivery can be effective for many, but it may not be right for everyone, and its use is determined on a case-by-case basis.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

- 1 TRIAL PROCEDURE:** Trialing an intrathecal pain pump is a critical step in determining whether this therapy is suitable and effective for managing your pain before a permanent device is considered. To begin, one of our pain specialists will review your medical history and pain condition to confirm you are an appropriate candidate. During the trial, a temporary catheter is inserted into the intrathecal space around the spinal cord. To simulate how the pump works, a small amount of medication is injected through the catheter. The effectiveness of the medication is then monitored. If the trial is successful and you choose to proceed; a surgical procedure will be scheduled for the permanent implant after it's approved by your insurance.
- 2 IMPLANT PROCEDURE:** Implanting a pain pump involves a surgical procedure in which a programmable device is placed under the skin, typically in the upper buttock. A catheter is threaded into the intrathecal space around the spinal cord and connected to the pump. The pump, which contains a reservoir for pain-relief medication, is then implanted, and the incision is closed. After a brief recovery period, the pump is programmed to begin delivering medication. Regular follow-up appointments are scheduled to monitor the long-term effectiveness of the device and make any necessary adjustments to optimize pain control. Unlike some surgical interventions for pain, targeted drug delivery is considered a reversible and non-destructive therapy. If needed, the device can be turned off or removed.
- 3 PUMP REFILLS:** It's important to attend all scheduled refill appointments to ensure consistent medication delivery. The frequency of refills varies depending on factors such as pump size, medication type, dosage, and your individual pain management needs.

INSURANCE AND BILLING

Insurance coverage for an intrathecal pain pump is usually granted when it is deemed medically necessary and meets the guidelines outlined in your policy.

IMPROVE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE

Pain pumps provide effective relief by delivering targeted medication directly to the affected area, reducing the need for high doses of opioids, and minimizing systemic side effects to enhance overall quality of life.

