



Your Intrathecal Catheter and Pump

Care instructions after surgery

This handout gives instructions to follow after surgery when you have an intrathecal catheter and pump placed.

When to Call the Center for Pain Relief

Weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., call 206-598-4282 if you have:

- Temperature higher than 99.5°F (37.5°C)
- Bloody drainage from your incision
- Increased swelling in the incision area
- Any open wound
- Weakness that is getting worse
- Loss of bowel or bladder function
- Severe headache

After hours and on weekends and holidays, please call 206-598-6190 and ask for the Chronic Pain Fellow for outpatients to be paged.

Activity

- Avoid strenuous physical activity for 30 days after your intrathecal catheter and pump are placed.
- You may shower 48 hours after surgery.
- Wear your abdominal binder for 6 to 8 weeks. Avoid activities that cause pain.

Dressing

- If you still have dressings (bandages), remove them 48 hours after your surgery.
- Gently clean your incision 2 times a day with the *chlorhexidine* you received at your pre-op visit. Do this for 7 days.
- Apply triple antibiotic ointment such as Neosporin to your incision after each cleaning. You can buy this ointment at a pharmacy without a prescription.

Questions?

Call 206-598-4282

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC clinic staff are also available to help.

Center for Pain Relief:
206-598-4282

- After you have removed the original dressing, you may leave the incisions uncovered, or you may apply light gauze dressing to keep the antibiotic ointment from getting on your clothing.

Medicines

- You have been given the antibiotic _____.
Take it as directed until all the pills are gone.
- For pain, take:
 - 500 mg acetaminophen (Tylenol), 2 tablets every 8 hours for 5 days
 - 600 mg ibuprofen (Advil) every 8 hours for 5 days
 - 1 or 2 tablets of oxycodone, every 4 hours **as needed**
- Baclofen:
 - Take ½ of your daily dose the day after surgery.
 - Take ¼ of your daily dose 2 days after surgery.
 - Stop taking baclofen 3 days after surgery.
- Be sure you know and understand your doctor’s instructions about the oral spasticity medicines and pain medicines that you were taking before your surgery.
- You may resume your other usual medicines.

Follow-up Visits

- Return to the Center for Pain Relief in 7 to 10 days for a "post-op" visit on the “implant” schedule. Your appointment is:

Date: _____ Time: _____

- Other appointments made for you are:

Date: _____ Time: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

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