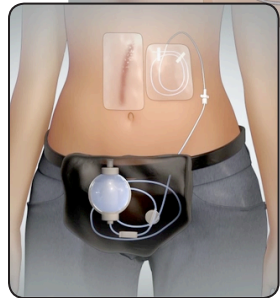
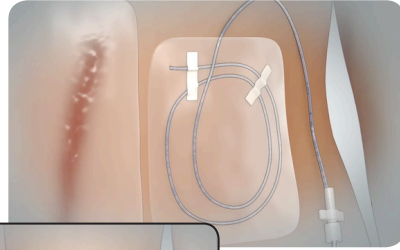


## Removing Your Pain Pump

A pain pump is used after surgery to deliver numbing medicine directly to the area near your incision so you have less pain. You receive the medicine over 2 to 4 days.

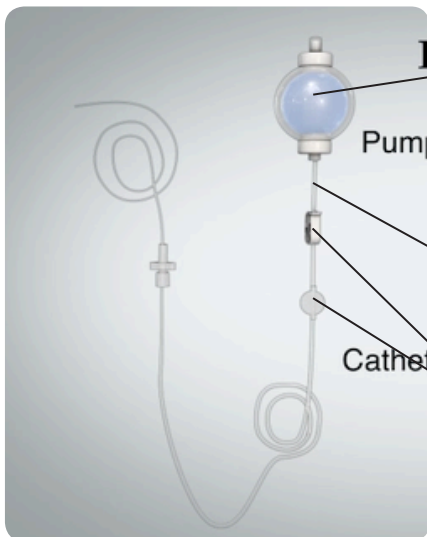
The medicine continuously flows very slowly out of the pump through a small tube placed under the skin

When the pump is empty, you remove the tube and throw the pump and tube away.



You wear a small pouch to hold the pump so you can go about your daily activities.

## Parts of Your Pain Pump



**The pump** gives you numbing medicine at a rate ordered by your surgeon. The rate on the pump cannot be changed.

A small tube, called a **catheter**, connects to the pump.

A **clamp and a filter** are attached along the tube.

## How to Tell if Your Pump Is Working

- Your surgical site feels numb and the medicine reduces your pain.
- The ball gradually gets smaller and the outside bag on the pump gets looser and begins to wrinkle.
- The pump is empty when the bag looks flat and you can feel a hard tube in the middle. This usually takes 48 to 72 hours.



## Caring for Your Pump

- Check your pain pump several times a day to be sure the clamp is open and slides easily, nothing is covering the filter, and there are no kinks or bends in the tubing.
- Protect your pump, filter and tube from water. Follow your surgeon's instructions about showering.
- When sleeping, keep the pump inside of the pouch, and place it next to you on top of the covers.



### Close the clamp and call your surgeon if:

- You notice the pump or tube is leaking.
- The tube separates from the pump. **DO NOT** reconnect it.
- The tube comes out of your skin. **DO NOT** put it back in.



### Do not:

- Take a tub bath or put your pump under water.
- Put the pump under the covers, on the floor, or hang it from anything.

## Removing the Pump

Follow these steps to remove your pain pump.

### Things You Will Need:

- An adhesive bandage
- A trash bag.

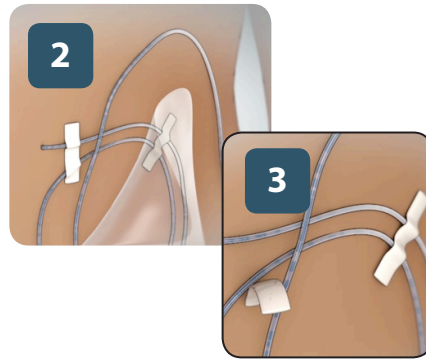


### Step 1

Wash your hands with soap and water and then dry them.

### Step 2

- Gently loosen the bandage around the site where the tube enters your skin.
- Slowly peel it back and remove.

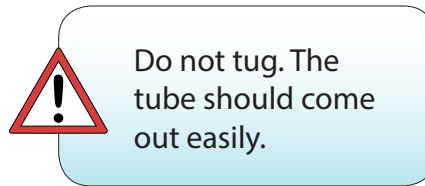


### Step 3

Remove the tape used to hold the tube in place.

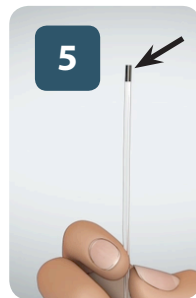
### Step 4

- Hold the tube close to the skin and gently pull the tube out at a 90 degree angle.
- If it feels hard to remove or stretches, stop and call your surgeon. Continued pulling could break the tube.



### Step 5

After the tube comes out, check the tip for a black mark to make sure you removed the entire tube.



### Step 6

Cover the site where the tube was, with an adhesive bandage.

### Step 7

Throw the tube, pump and bandages into a trash bag.

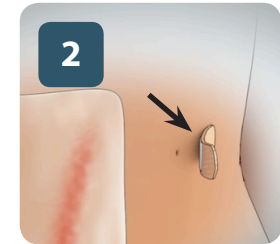
## Checking the Tube Entry Site the Next Day

### Step 1

Wash your hands with soap and water and then dry them.

### Step 2

- Remove the adhesive bandage the next day and look at the site.
- If you have redness, pain or warmth at the site, call your surgeon.



### Warning Signs

Close the clamp on the tube and call your surgeon if you notice:

- Ringing or buzzing in your ears
- Blurred vision
- Metal taste in your mouth
- Numbness or tingling in your fingers, toes or around your mouth
- Drowsiness or confusion
- Increased pain
- Fever, chills, sweats
- Trouble breathing
- Red, swollen, warm or painful tube site
- Bleeding or discharge from the tube site
- You feel dizzy or light-headed

### Watch online at:

[gwinnettmedicalcenter.nucleuslibrary.com](http://gwinnettmedicalcenter.nucleuslibrary.com)

This handout is intended to supplement the information you receive from your health care provider. This information should never be considered personal medical advice. Always contact your health care provider with questions or concerns.