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Ambulatory analgesia by perineural block using a feeding bottle (elastomeric infusion pump)

Information for patients

In agreement with your doctor, the anesthesiologist has installed a catheter (small tube) allowing for infusion of an anesthetic drug called Naropin.

The catheter was inserted into a nerve zone (arm, leg, shoulder, etc.) with the use of an ultrasound.

The drug acts by blocking pain signals after surgery, thus helping you rest and heal, and reduces the need for an opioid-type medication (morphine or other).



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What is the “feeding bottle” or elastometric infusion pump?

The “feeding bottle” is a simple and safe device for administering the anesthetic (Naropin) at a rate prescribed by your anesthesiologist.

If required, you will be able to self-administer additional doses using the built-in controller. The feeding bottle contains a balloon that holds the medication, which will flow out slowly over the course of a set number of hours. It works by gravity and by a mechanism of counter-pressure.

12 heures



24 heures



36 heures



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Connecting the bottle

Following the surgery, a nurse in the recovery room will connect the bottle to the catheter which was previously installed by the anesthesiologist.

The nurse will monitor your state to make sure you find relief.

She will later give you the controller and explain how it works.

Before being released from the hospital, a nurse from the Postoperative Analgesia Service (SAPO) will meet with you and your family to explain the modalities and instructions to follow at home.

Home Care Instructions

Management of your oral medication



- Take acetaminophen 1000 mg 4 times a day (2 tablets of 500 mg or “extra-strength”) as recommended by your doctor.
- If applicable, take the prescribed anti-inflammatory medication at the recommended frequency.

Sleep



- Place the bottle at the same height as the connector for optimal flow.

Physical activities and driving



- You can go about your daily activities as tolerated.
- In the case of a lower-limb block (e.g. knee block), be aware of your ability to lean on it or walk, as the block reduces muscle strength. Use crutches or a walker.

Environment



- The bottle is sensitive to temperature changes. Make sure to keep it close to you (e.g. in your shirt pocket).
- Keep the system away from direct sunlight.

Bath / Shower



- Keep the bottle away from direct streams of water. Be sure to cover it with a plastic bag or place it outside the bath or shower.

- If analgesia is insufficient despite boluses (extra dose via the bottle), take the opioid analgesic prescribed by your doctor at the recommended dosage – e.g. Statex (morphine), Dilaudid (hydromorphone) or Supeudol (oxycodone).

- Be sure to have your limb (arm, leg) well supported to reduce the risks associated with poor positioning, as you won't feel discomfort.

- Driving is prohibited as long as the bottle is in use or as long as you feel the effects of the block after it has been removed.

- Do not use a heating blanket, a hot-water bottle or *Sac Magique* (hot/cold compress bag) during therapy. The risk of burns increases due to reduced sensation in the infused area.

A nurse from the Postoperative Analgesia Service (SAPO) or one of the physicians on the Anesthesiology team will call you at home every day to follow up on your progress.



How to remove the bottle ?

After about 48 hours, the bottle will contain no more medication, at which time you will be able to remove it. Follow these easy steps to do so :

1. Wash your hands.
2. Remove the bandages that hold the catheter and the bottle to your skin. It is possible that the bandage sticks to the skin.
3. Gently remove the tube inserted in your skin. It may be a long catheter, depending on the insertion site and your physical condition.
4. Following the withdrawal of the catheter, you may notice a slight discharge; this is excess medication that lies under the skin. Apply a small Band-Aid.
5. Dispose of the bottle and catheter in the household waste.
6. And that's all there is to it! Last step is to remove the Band-Aid in 24 hours.

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When can I call the Postoperative Analgesia Service (SAPO) nurse or anesthesiologist ?

1. If pain persists despite the bottle or oral analgesics prescribed by your doctor.
2. If signs of infection appear at the site of the catheter insertion (redness, tenderness, induration/pus, fever of 38 degrees Celcius or higher when temperature is taken orally).
3. If the following side effects occur: numbness of the lips, metallic taste in the mouth, ringing in the ears, visual impairment, drowsiness, disorientation. If this happens, clamp the bottle with the blue clamp, and contact the anesthesiologist on call (see page 8).
4. Difficulty breathing: contact emergency services.

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How to reach us

For Hôpital Maisonneuve Rosemont (HMR) patients :

From Monday to Friday - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

 Postoperative Analgesia Service (SAPO) Nurse : 438 349-4655

You can leave the nurse a message at all times with your contact information and the reason of your call. The nurse will call you back in the best timelines.

At every other time (evening, night and week-end) :

For doctors information, call 514 252-3400, extension 4558, and ask for the anesthesiologist on call.

Advise the operator that you have a perineural block catheter and that you need to speak to the doctor.

For Hôpital Santa Cabrini Ospedale (HSCO) patients :

From Monday to Friday - 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

 Postoperative Analgesia Service (SAPO) Nurse : 514 252-6434

At every other time (evening, night and week-end) :

Call 514 252-6000, extension 6444, and ask for the anesthesiologist on call.

Advise the operator that you have a perineural block catheter and that you need to speak to the anesthesiologist.

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The postoperative analgesia service team wishes you the best of recoveries. We hope that the use of this feeding bottle will help your recovery.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

CIUSSS de l'Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal

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🌐 <https://ciusss-estmtl.gouv.qc.ca>

Other health-related publications and resources of interest are available on the Information center for users and their families (CIUP) Website.

🌐 <https://biblio-hmr.ca/in/fr/ciup>

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