Intrathecal Baclofen Therapy

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY

The Pump Site
You may have a collection of fluid around the pump site for a few days or weeks after the placement. You may use an ace wrap or abdominal binder to help prevent fluid build-up.

Activity
Your doctor may recommend that you stay quiet for 2-3 days after surgery to prevent headache and nausea. For 3-4 weeks you should avoid activities that require excessive bending or twisting at the waist, overhead reaching, or any movement causing stress on the incision. Also, avoid tight clothing such as elastic waistbands or belts because they could irritate the incision.

The incision
The dressing can come off 2 – 3 days after surgery. You may take a shower 4 days after surgery. After 4 weeks you may take tub baths. Please see the incision care sheet for specific care.

Nutrition
A well-balanced diet is necessary for proper healing. This includes food from each of the basic food groups.

Medicines
You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol) if desired for pain. Never stop taking oral anti-spasmodic medicine abruptly. Abrupt withdrawal can be very dangerous. You will be given a schedule to gradually decrease this medicine.

Work
You may return to work when the incision has healed. If you need a written excuse, please ask the doctor or nurse.

In an emergency
Tell family members and close friends that you have a Baclofen pump, why you have it, and whom to call in an emergency. Tell your primary care physician, also.

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You will find a temporary ID card in the patient handbook. It has information that you or a doctor would need in an emergency. You will receive a permanent ID card from Medtronic in the mail in 6 – 8 weeks. Please carry it in your wallet at all times, and tell your family and other people around you that you have it.

**Call your doctor at (615) 322-7417 if you have**

- Increased pain, redness, swelling, or drainage from or around incision
- Temperature of 101° F or greater
- Sudden increase in spasticity. This may be related to infection or to a pump that is near empty or not working properly.
- Increased weakness, difficulty breathing, drowsiness, lightheadedness, slurred speech, double and blurred vision, itching
- Excessive sleepiness
- A beeping sound or alarm coming from pump. This may indicate that the Baclofen is almost used up or that the battery is low

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