Intermountain® Healthcare

LAID: *Home Instructions*

What is an LAID?

LAID stands for local anesthetic infusion device. It's a small device with a pump that delivers a constant flow of numbing medication directly a specific part of your body. The medication is pumped through a long, thin tube called a **catheter**. Usually the catheter is put in place at the time of your surgery. It may still be in place when you leave the hospital.

Why do I need it?

The medication in a LAID reduces pain after surgery. The LAID allows you to continue receiving your pain medication for a few days after you go home. This usually means you can go home from the hospital sooner.

How much medicine will I get?

Your doctor selected and set up the device to give you the amount of medication you need. The medication is infused slowly, so don't worry if at first the amount in the bottle or the size of the ball doesn't appear to be decreasing. Some pumps allow you to give yourself a little extra medication. These pumps also have a lockout feature that will prevent you from getting too much.

How do I care for my LAID?

While your LAID is in place, follow these steps to keep it safe:

- When moving around, carry your LAID in a carrying case or attached to your clothing.
- While sleeping, tuck the LAID under your pillow. Don't put it on the floor or hang it above your head.
- Do not put the pump in water or other liquids.

Your LAID will probably look like one of the devices pictured above. The device pumps medication through a catheter into your body.

When should I call my doctor?

- Hoarseness in your voice is a normal side effect that your doctor does not need to know about. It should go away when the LAID is removed.
- If you have the following symptoms of infection, contact your doctor:
  - Increased pain
  - Itching or hives
  - Redness, swelling, or warmth around the place where the catheter enters your skin
  - Fever or chills, nausea or vomiting
- If you have any of the symptoms below while using the LAID, **contact your doctor *immediately*:**
  - Numbness around your lips or tongue
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Dizziness
  - Blurred vision
  - Ringing in your ears
  - Hearing loss
  - Metallic taste in your mouth
  - Uncontrollable shaking
  - Seizure (call 911 or have someone take you to the Emergency Room)

When should I remove it?

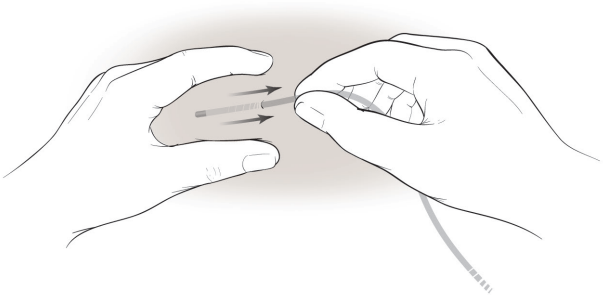
Most devices are left in place until they are empty, usually about 48 hours after they were placed. On the line below, write the day and time that you were instructed to remove your device:

Day: _____ Time: _____

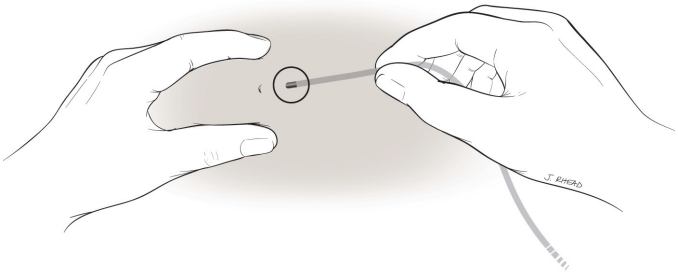
How do I remove it?

When the pump is empty, or when the time has come that your doctor told you to remove it, follow these steps:

1. Clean your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Remove the dressing, and any tape used to secure the catheter.
3. **Do not cut the catheter.** Firmly grasp the catheter near the skin. Pull it gently backward out of the skin. If it does not slide out easily, call your doctor.



4. Check the tip of the catheter to make sure it is intact. There should be a dark marking on the tip. If the catheter appears to be broken, contact your doctor. Be sure to keep the catheter, as your doctor may want to see it.



5. Cover the site with a bandage. You don't need to put antiseptic or ointment on it.
6. **Contact your doctor if** you notice any of the following at the catheter site: redness, warmth, pain, excessive drainage, or swelling.

What should I do with the device after I have removed it?

If you have a device with a ball, like the one pictured at right, you can throw it away.

If you have a programmable device, a nurse may come to your home to get it. If not, return it to your doctor on your next visit or, to arrange for pickup of an ambIT pump, call 1-888-917-8677.

How will I control my pain after the device is removed?

Your doctor may give you a prescription for pain medication. Be sure to fill it on the way home from the hospital and follow your doctor's instructions carefully.

Where can I get help?

If you have trouble removing your LAID, or if you have any of the concerns listed under "When should I call my doctor?" section of this handout, call your doctor's office.

If you have mechanical trouble with an ambIT pump, call 1-888-91-PUMPS (888-917-8677).

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