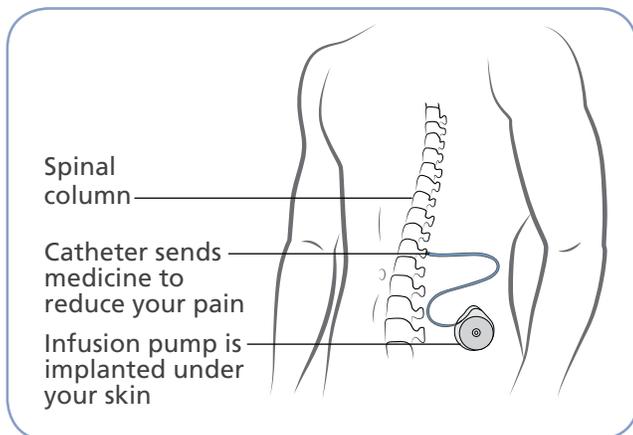


# Implanted Infusion Pumps

## What are implanted infusion pumps?

Implanted infusion [in-fyu-shuhn] pumps are small devices placed under your skin during surgery. The pump sends liquid pain medicine through a thin, flexible tube (**catheter**) to a specific part of your body.

Infusion pumps can provide targeted and consistent medicine to reduce pain. They are used when other methods don't work or when you need long-term medicines or fluids.



## How do I manage my pump?

Your healthcare team will help you manage your infusion pump. You will need to go to regular follow-up visits to check the pump and prevent problems.

During these appointments, your care team may test the pump's alarm so you can hear the sound it makes when you may be having an emergency. They will also make sure your pump is working correctly and the battery is still good. However, you and your caregivers also need to learn how your pump works, what to watch for, and when to report problems.

### What do I need to do right now?

- Know the alarms.** Your pump has one or more alarms that tell you that the battery is running out or the pump isn't working right. Call your care team right away if you hear an alarm.
- Pay attention to how you're feeling.** Talk with your care team about signs and symptoms to watch for and when to get medical help. These may include changes in your pain, new pain, numbness or tingling, bowel or bladder problems, weakness in your muscles, and changes in reflexes.
- Before having a procedure, tell all of your other healthcare providers that you have an infusion pump.** Some medical procedures, such as MRIs and radiation therapy, can affect your pump. (Basic x-rays are unlikely to affect your pump.)
- Know the risks of electromagnetic interference (EMI).** Your pump may be affected by sources of strong EMI (such as power stations and laser procedures). Refer to the information in the package or ask your healthcare provider for more information.
- Avoid high temperatures for long periods of time.** Temperatures above 102°F (38.9°C) can change the flow rate of the pump. A quick shower won't affect your pump, but you should not use hot tubs, saunas, or steam rooms. In addition, call your healthcare provider if you have a fever of 102°F (38.9°C) or higher.
- Avoid exercises involving twisting or stretching.** Sudden, excessive, or repetitive bending or twisting can damage your pump. Talk to your healthcare provider about the types of activities you should avoid.
- Don't rub or push the pump.** Rubbing or moving the pump can make your skin break down, and it can damage the pump or its parts.

## How can I find out more about my infusion pump?

Your infusion pump comes with printed information in the package. This provides specific information on how to use it safely. You may also get a booklet with directions and information. If not, you may be able to find one online. In addition, talk with your healthcare provider about your pump and the medicines you are taking.

## Talking with your doctor about implanted infusion pumps

The table below lists the most common potential benefits, risks, and alternatives for an implanted infusion pump. There may be other benefits or risks in your unique medical situation. Talking with your doctor is the best way to learn about these risks and benefits. If you have questions, be sure to ask.

Potential benefits	Risks and potential complications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivers targeted medicine throughout the day to a specific part of your body</li> <li>• Requires less medicine than other methods because the medicine doesn't have to go through the entire body</li> <li>• Relieves chronic pain when oral, IV, or topical medicines fail</li> <li>• Reduces side effects when compared to other forms of the same medicine</li> <li>• Avoids the discomfort of catheters through the skin or injections directly into the spine</li> <li>• Allows you to increase your activity level as you live with less pain and better symptom management</li> </ul>	<p><b>As with any surgery,</b> there are risks of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain or infection at the implant site or spinal canal</li> <li>• Bruising, bleeding, swelling, infection, spinal fluid leak, headache, paralysis (spinal surgery risks)</li> <li>• Blood clots, bleeding or loss of blood, stroke, organ failure, death (vein or artery surgery risks)</li> </ul> <p>The risks and potential complications from <b>mechanical problems</b> (e.g., gears stopping or stalling, battery dying) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tissue or skin damage</li> <li>• Loss of or change in therapy (overdose, underdose, or stop of medicine)</li> <li>• Serious nerve or spinal cord injury, including paralysis</li> <li>• Return of underlying symptoms</li> <li>• Drug withdrawal symptoms</li> <li>• Serious injury or death</li> <li>• Need for surgery to replace the pump if it stops working</li> </ul> <p><b>Medicine side effects:</b> Talk to your healthcare provider about the risks and potential side effects for the medicines you'll receive through your pump.</p>



### My follow-up appointment

Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_



### Questions for my doctor

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