

# Your Nerve Block Home Pump

## General Information

---

1. **Have a care giver present:** Your doctor prescribed the Nerve Block Home Pump to help you control surgery-related pain at home. You must have a care giver present throughout this treatment.
2. **A preset dose will be dispensed:** The pump is filled with pain medication and will automatically deliver a preset dose through the catheter (plastic tube).
3. **Oral pain medication:** Take additional oral pain medication only as instructed by your surgeon.
4. **Home Pump assistance after discharge: You will be called the day after you are discharged** to evaluate your progress with the home pump. Should you have questions or concerns or experience any difficulties, please call OHSU at 503 494-8311 and ask for the Home Pump Physician On-Call.



**If you have questions about the pump, call OHSU 24 hours a day at 503 494-8311 and ask for the Home Pump Physician On-Call.**

The pain medication in your pump is called Ropivacaine and the concentration is 0.2 percent (2 mg/cc).

## Instructions

---

1. **Do not get the pump wet.** Cover it with a plastic bag if necessary.
2. **Check the dressing** at least four (4) times a day. If the dressing becomes loose, add tape to it. **Do not change the dressing.**
3. **It is normal for the catheter site to leak** a little. The fluid may be clear or “red tinged.” If the leak bothers you, stop the pump by closing the tubing clamp. Your pain may increase because the infusion was stopped. Restart the pump 1-2 hours later by opening the tubing clamp.
4. **Remove the catheter** when the pump is empty or when instructed by your pain physician. **Do not cut the catheter.** First, wash your hands. Then gently remove all dressings and adhesive tapes. Slowly pull the catheter away from your skin and remove it from the nerve. Check on the metal tip of the catheter to make sure you removed it completely. STOP if you feel any resistance or pain and call OHSU 24 hours a day at 503 494-8311 and ask for the Home Pump Physician On-Call.
5. **Do not cut the catheter.** If you feel resistance or pain when removing the catheter, STOP and call OHSU 24 hours a day at 503 494-8311 and ask for the Home Pump Physician On-Call.
6. **You can throw away the pump** and catheter in your household trash.




## Cautions

---

1. **Pressure injury:** Do not apply pressure to numb area. Do not sleep or lean on it. When you are awake, change positions at least once an hour. Keep the numbed area in a comfortable elevated position whenever possible. Symptoms

of pressure injury include: swelling to the area, paleness, increase in pain, and bruising or other color changes. If you experience any of these symptoms or if you have any concerns, please call OHSU 24 hours a day at 503 494-8311 and ask for the Home Pump Physician On-Call.

- 2. Problems with balance:** Please be careful when walking. The nerve block and pain medicine may affect your balance. Always ask your care giver for help to prevent a fall.
- 3. Drug toxicity:** TURN THE PUMP OFF if you experience ringing or rumbling in your ear(s), a metallic taste in your mouth, dizziness, shaking, irregular breathing, or an irregular heartbeat, turn off the pump by closing the tubing clamp.  **Call 911 or have your care giver drive you to the nearest emergency room.** Ask the emergency personnel to contact OHSU at 503 494-8311 and ask for the Home Pump Physician On-Call.

**If you do not feel you need to go to the emergency room, please contact OHSU 24 hours a day at 503 494-8311 and ask for the Home Pump Physician On-Call.**

## Pump Information



ON-Q is an elastomeric pump that automatically delivers a continuous regulated flow of local anesthetic over multiple days. It is completely portable. The pump is connected to a catheter placed near a nerve for regional anesthesia.

**If you have questions about the pump, call OHSU 24 hours a day at 503 494-8311 and ask for the Home Pump Physician On-Call.**

**Note:** Your nerve block home pump infuses medication around the nerve and is **not** a pain pump directed into your joint.



Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine  
Mail code: UHS-2  
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road  
Portland, OR 97239-3098  
[www.ohsu.edu/anesth/](http://www.ohsu.edu/anesth/)

---

OHSU protects the privacy of its patients' and research participants' personal health information. If you would like a copy of the OHSU Notice of Privacy Practices, please ask for a copy at your next visit or call 503 494-8849.

OHSU accepts most health plans.

*OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.*

I-Flow Corporation has granted permission to use all Infusion Pump pictures. Do not reproduce, copy or redistribute brochure without permission.  
Revised 12/09. © OHSU 2009