

Nerve Block Catheter/Home Pump

OR Dynamics 24-hour hotline: 877-620-6060 | 888-343-7171

To help with pain relief after your surgery, your doctor may suggest placing a nerve block catheter. This tiny tube (catheter) is connected to a pump that will deliver numbing pain medication to provide pain relief in the area you had surgery. It is common to experience some numbness and tingling in the surgical arm or leg while receiving this medication. You may still have some pain with a nerve block catheter and need to take additional pain pills as prescribed by your doctor. The hope is that with a nerve block, your pain pill usage will be less.

Information about the local Anesthetic (Numbing) Medication

- Some loss of feeling or numbness at or around the surgery area is completely normal while you are receiving this medication or as long as the pump is running. If you develop a complete numbness or become uncomfortable, stop the pump and contact OR Dynamic 24-hour patient hotline (877-620-6060 or 888-343-7171).
- If you notice any of the following symptoms stop the pump: call the OR Dynamics hotline or if you experience any of the medical emergency symptoms in **red, call 911**.
 - difficulty swallowing
 - dizziness
 - lightheadedness
 - metallic taste
 - nervousness
 - numbness around the face or mouth
 - rash/hives
 - ringing in the ears
 - twitching
 - **chest pain**
 - **confusion**
 - **convulsions/seizures**
 - **difficulty breathing**
- Avoid exposure to extreme hot and/or cold to your arm or leg. The ability to sense temperature can be impacted by the nerve block.

What to know about the Pump and Nerve Block Catheter

- If the pump alarms, push the Run/Pause (rectangle button):
 - Check to make sure there is medication left in the medication bag
 - Check to make sure there are no kinks in the line or the clamps are closed
 - Then, restart the pump by pushing the Run/Pause button again
 - If the alarm continues, call the OR Dynamics hotline
- Care should be taken to not get the pump or bandages over the nerve block catheter wet. Do not drop or strike the pump against hard surfaces.
- The number on the pump should be counting up as you continue to receive the medication.

Please watch the Nerve Block Patient Education Video online:
trinityhealthmichigan.org/ortho-help or scan the QR code.



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Troubleshooting Your Nerve Block

Nerve block is leaking

Check dressing, reinforce it with the dressing that was provided

Use a washcloth to help soak up excess fluid

Turn off the pump for one (1) hour. This allows your body to absorb the excess fluid.

Refer to your OR Dynamics Instruction Book for directions in the large white envelope.

Turn your pump back on

If the nerve block continues to leak and is not tolerable, remove it

Follow the directions on how to remove the block in the OR Dynamics Instruction Book

Call OR Dynamics 24-hour hotline

Uncontrollable pain

Push the bolus button (round green blinking light) for an extra dose of medication

Take your pain medication as prescribed including the Tylenol

If you have had surgery on your leg or foot, make sure you are elevating the surgical leg or foot higher than the level of your heart to help with pain and swelling

Use cold therapy to help with pain and swelling

If pain remains uncontrolled call your surgeon's office

For instructions on how to remove the nerve block catheter and returning the pump to OR Dynamics:

Refer to the OR Dynamics Instruction Book