

Patient Controlled Analgesia PCA



FACT SHEET

What is a PCA?

- Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA for short), allows you to provide yourself pain relief, giving you control over any pain you may experience. Instead of calling a nurse when you require pain medication, you push the button on the PCA Infuser machine. When you push the button, you will receive a very small dose of pain medication. Just the right amount, no more, no less.

How much medication will I receive ?

- Just the right amount prescribed by your doctor to relieve the pain. Your doctor and nurse will make sure the PCA is set to deliver exactly the right dose.
- If you feel some discomfort and want relief, just push and release the button to administer the medication. The medicine starts to work very quickly.. usually within minutes... When you start to feel uncomfortable and need more medication, just press and release the button again.

Built-in timers on the PCA will make sure your doses are safely timed during your course of treatment so that you will receive only the medication you need throughout the day.

Our primary concerns are for your comfort and safety.

The PCA guards them both – accurately and precisely.

Can I give myself too much medicine?

- NO. The PCA Infuser is a precision, medical instrument, specially engineered and designed so that you cannot give yourself more medication than your doctor has prescribed for you. If you become sleepy or drowsy, try and wait a while until you begin to feel definite discomfort before you push the button again. Remember – try and find a comfortable balance.

What if I start to feel sleepy ?

- Just relax. The pain medication you will be receiving has that effect on many people. Try and balance the pain relief you request against any sleepiness you may experience. “just enough” medication will both take away the pain and keep you alert and awake – at the same time.

What if I become uncomfortable ?

- If your pain medication seems to stop working, even after pushing the button several times, just call the nurse to check your IV line. If you are still uncomfortable after the nurse checks your IV, your nurse will have other measures to make you comfortable.

How long will I be using the PCA infuser ?

- That is a decision your doctor will make. Everyone wants you to be as comfortable as possible, and feeling yourself again – quickly and safely. You will be able to help yourself rest more comfortably and easily as you recover from your surgery.