



### **Pain Management: Local Anesthetic Infusion via Peripheral Nerve Catheter**

To help manage your pain after your knee or shoulder surgery, you will be using a special pump that contains anesthesia. A catheter (thin bendable tube) will be inserted near a nerve in your arm or leg and attached to a tube that connects to the pump. The anesthesia will go from the pump, through the catheter and into your body. It will make your arm or leg numb. You will therefore feel less pain. This is called a peripheral nerve block.

A peripheral nerve block is when we inject anesthesia near specific nerves in the area where you had surgery to numb that area. In other words, we “block” the nerve so that you cannot feel pain. You will feel pins and needles in the area where we have placed the nerve block, just like the feeling that you may have had in an arm or leg when you wake up in the morning. You may also feel a warm sensation in the area that we have blocked.

#### **Where will the catheter be?**

Your catheter may be placed in several locations:

- Interscalene - in your neck
- Infraclavicular - near your collarbone
- Femoral - in your groin
- Popliteal - in the back of your knee or on the side of your leg

#### **What medicine am I getting?**

- Ropivacaine 0.2%
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Can I move and walk?**

You can move your arm or leg when the catheter is in place. If the catheter is in your groin, leg or knee you may not be able to put weight on your leg. Call your nurse if you need to stand or walk. **DO NOT** stand or walk without help from your nurse.

#### **Are there side effects?**

- If the catheter is in your neck, you may have mild shortness of breath, redness and drooping of your eye on the side of the block. This is a normal side effect and will go away when the medicine is stopped.
- It is normal to have some leakage around the catheter.



- Call your nurse immediately if you notice any of the following symptoms. Your nurse will call the Department of Anesthesia pain management service.
  - Skin rash or hives
  - Numbness and/or tingling around your mouth, fingers or toes
  - Ringing in your ears
  - Metallic taste
  - Dizziness, lightheadedness
  - Blurred vision
  - Sleepiness
  - Confusion
  - Increasing or extreme numbness or weakness in your arm or leg
  - Extreme pain, redness, swelling or discharge at the catheter site
  - Fever
  - Difficulty breathing
  - The catheter comes out or is not connected

Patient's name:

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print sign date

Family member or loved one's name:

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print sign date

Relationship to patient: \_\_\_\_\_

RN's name:

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print sign date