

Questions

If you have any further questions or concerns about your child's epidural please ask the nurse caring for your child to contact the Pain Team.

The Pain Nurse Specialist (Monday - Friday) or anaesthetist may visit your child while the epidural is in place. We can be easily contacted by your nurse if required.



Epidural Pump



Drawings provided by children associated with the hospital.

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Version: 1

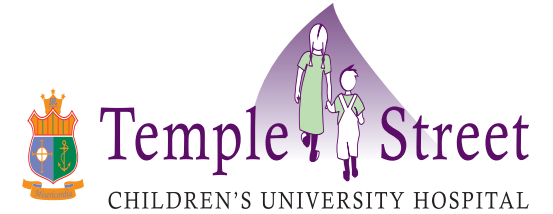
Approval Date: May 2014

Review Date: May 2016

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The information in this leaflet is correct at time of print



Epidural



Information for Patients, Parents and Carers

Pain Control Team

Main Hospital Number

01 878 4200

Bleep 830

What is an Epidural ?

Your child's anaesthetist may suggest an epidural as a method of providing pain relief for your child.

When your child is asleep under general anaesthetic a thin tube(catheter) will be placed into a space in your child's back to allow pain relieving medication to be given.

When is it Used ?

Epidural pain relief is used after major surgery. The catheter is placed in your child's back during their operation and is held in place by a dressing.



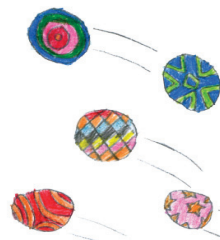
How is it Given ?

The drug contains local anaesthetic. This drug is given through a thin tube and will numb the nerves around your child's operation site providing continuous pain relief.

How Will the Epidural Affect my Child ?

Your child's legs may feel heavy or have a tingling feeling with pins and needles. Because of these sensations it is important that your child does not get out of bed without the help of nursing staff while they are receiving the pain relieving medication. Depending on the type of surgery your child may be able to sit up and move around the bed.

Epidural may provide the best pain solution in certain circumstances.



How Will the Epidural be Removed ?

The epidural catheter is usually removed after 1-2 days in the ward. At this time your child's pain can be easily controlled by other types of medication.

Removing the catheter is not painful but removing the dressing can be a little uncomfortable.

What Are the Side Effects ?

Epidural pain relief is an effective method of delivering pain relief to children. Occasionally an epidural may not work as expected. If the medication does not make the operation site numb, this sometimes can be helped by changing the position of your child or changing the rate of the medication.

Occasionally an epidural catheter can fall out, if this happens your child will be given another type of pain relief.

Some children may have difficulty passing urine when receiving pain relief by epidural. This can be treated using medication.

Other rare complications include;

- ★ Nausea / vomiting / itching
- ★ Minor headaches
- ★ Numbness
- ★ Breathing difficulties
- ★ Backache
- ★ Nerve damage
- ★ Epidural abscess (infection)
- ★ Epidural haematoma (blood clot)

The anaesthetist will discuss the risks, benefits and side effects with you before your child's operation.