

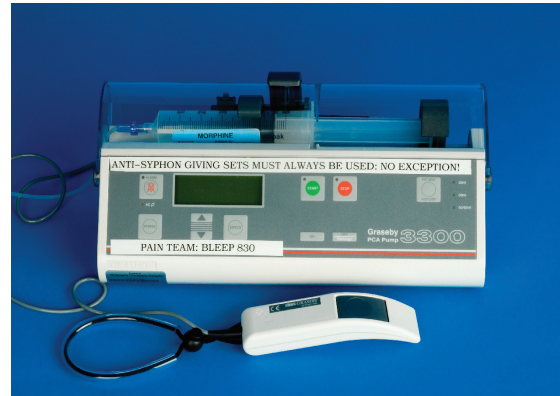
Questions

If at any time you or your parents have any questions about your pain, please ask your nurse to contact a member of the pain team.

The Pain Nurse Specialist or Anaesthetist will visit you every day while you are using PCA.



Syringe Pump



Patient Controlled Analgesia



Drawings provided by children associated with the hospital.

Pain Control Team

Main Hospital Number

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Version: 1

Approval Date: May 2014

Review Date: May 2016

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What is Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA) ?

Patient Controlled analgesia (PCA) allows you to receive a small dose of morphine as it is needed, without delay or the discomfort of an injection.

A computer programmed syringe pump (PCA) with a hand set attached allows you to receive a safe dose of morphine if you feel pain. The hand set is similar to the handset of a Wii !

When is it Used ?

If you feel any pain you can press the button on the handset. It is a good idea to press the button before moving or physiotherapy or doing anything you think may cause you pain.

You are the only person allowed to press the button, not another child or a parent- only you !

How Long Does it take to Work ?

Morphine is fast acting, your pain should ease after 5- 10 minutes. If after this time you are still in pain you can press the button again. If you don't feel better you can talk to your nurse.

How Safe is PCA ?

PCA technology has been in use for many years and has a number of safety features.

- ★ The syringe pump will only allow you to receive a safe dose of pain medicine.
- ★ The pump will be programmed to deliver the correct amount of morphine for your age and weight as agreed by your doctor.
- ★ PCA has a number of inbuilt safety checks

When you are using the PCA you will have specific observations carried out by your nurse.

A member of the Pain Team will visit you while you are using PCA to check your progress.



What Are the Side Effects ?

Some children may experience minor side effects. These can include;

- ★ Upset stomach
- ★ Vomitting
- ★ Itching
- ★ Feeling sleepy

Some of these symptoms can be due to the effect of the anaesthetic and your operation.

If you have any of the above please talk to your nurse about it.

How Long Will I Have PCA ?

PCA is normally used for 1 - 2 days after an operation. The length of time will differ depending on each child and the type of operation.

As you recover from your operation you will need PCA less, during this time you wil also be given other painkillers. When it is no longer needed PCA will be removed.