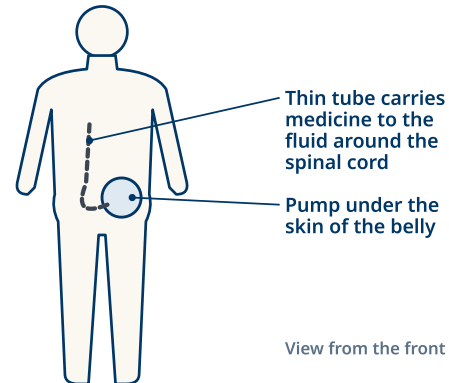


Intrathecal Drug Delivery

What it is

An intrathecal pump is a small device placed under the skin of the belly. It sends small doses of medicine straight to the fluid around the spinal cord. Because the dose is small, side effects may be fewer.



Why it is done

- Severe chronic pain not controlled by other treatments
- Cancer-related pain
- Patients with significant side effects from oral medications
- Successful screening trial

Self-care tips

- Keep the cut clean and dry until it heals.
- During healing, avoid bending, lifting and twisting as told.
- Carry your device ID card. Tell other providers you have a device before any MRI.
- Charge or check your device as shown.

What to expect

Before: You first get a test dose of the medicine to see how your body responds.

During: If the test goes well, the pump and a thin tube are placed under the skin during surgery with anesthesia.

After: You come back for visits to refill the pump and adjust the dose. Keep every refill visit.

When to call us

- Fever over 101°F or chills
- Redness, swelling or fluid draining from the cut
- The device stops working or gives an unusual feeling
- Symptoms that get worse

Call 911 for chest pain, trouble breathing, or loss of bladder or bowel control.

Call 732-202-3000

One number for all offices. Questions about this handout? We are glad to help.

Our 7 offices: Whiting · Toms River (Hooper Ave) · Brick · Barnegat · Manahawkin · Freehold · West Long Branch

gsmedicalcenter.org/treatments/implantable-intrathecal-drug-delivery-systems/



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This handout is general information and is not a substitute for medical advice.