

This pamphlet has been created for you to understand Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA)

What is Patient Controlled Analgesia?

PCA is a way of providing you with immediate pain medication.

PCA allows you to give yourself pain medication after your surgery by pushing a button.

How does PCA work?

A PCA pump is connected to your intravenous.

When you have pain, you press the PCA button and you will receive a dose of pain medication.

The medicine will take 5 to 10 minutes to work.

For safety, once you have triggered a dose of pain medication, a set time must pass (about 6 minutes before another press of the button will trigger another dose of medication.

Other pain medications such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen may also be given at regular times by the nurse to help control your pain.

My Appointment

Date: _____

Time: _____

Contact Number

416-530-6000 ext. _____

Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA)

*at St. Joseph's Health
Centre*

November 2007

ST. JOSEPH'S
HEALTH CENTRE TORONTO

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How do I use the PCA pump?

Your nurse will show you how to use the PCA button.

Ask your nurse for assistance if you are having trouble using the PCA button.

When should I push the PCA button?

Press the button when you start to feel pain or before you do something that brings on the pain, such as: your breathing and coughing exercises, or you start to move or turn.

Before physiotherapy or if you are getting out of bed to sit in the chair or go for a walk.

DO NOT wait until your pain is bad before using your PCA pump.

When shouldn't I use the PCA button?

Do not use the PCA

- to help you sleep
- to calm you down
- to relieve gas pains

Do I have to stay in bed with a PCA pump?

You will be able to get up out of bed, go to the washroom and walk in the halls with the PCA pump.

Can I give myself too much medication?

It would be unusual for you to give yourself too much medication provided you use it appropriately and no other individuals push the PCA button for you. Your doctor has ordered the amount of pain medication you should receive. Every time you feel pain you should push the button.

The PCA pump is programmed and will not give you pain medication if it is not time for a dose.

DO NOT use your own pain meds or sleeping pills from home while using the PCA.

Who should press the PCA button?

ONLY YOU SHOULD PRESS THE PCA BUTTON

Family and visitors SHOULD NOT press the PCA button for you. If you cannot press the PCA button, notify your nurse.

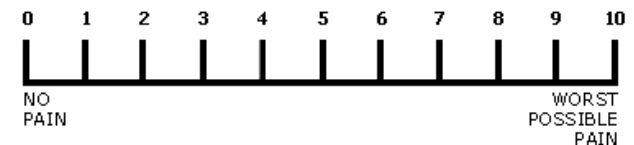
What if I am still having pain after receiving my pain medication?

It may take 2 to 3 doses before the pain medication controls your pain.

If you are still having pain, call the nurse and your dose of pain medication may be changed.

The nurse will ask you to describe your pain, using this pain scale as a guide.

Pain Scale:



Common side effects of PCA

Sleepiness
Nausea and vomiting
Itching
Constipation

It is important for you to take the pain medication to control your pain. Other medications can be given to help relieve side effects.