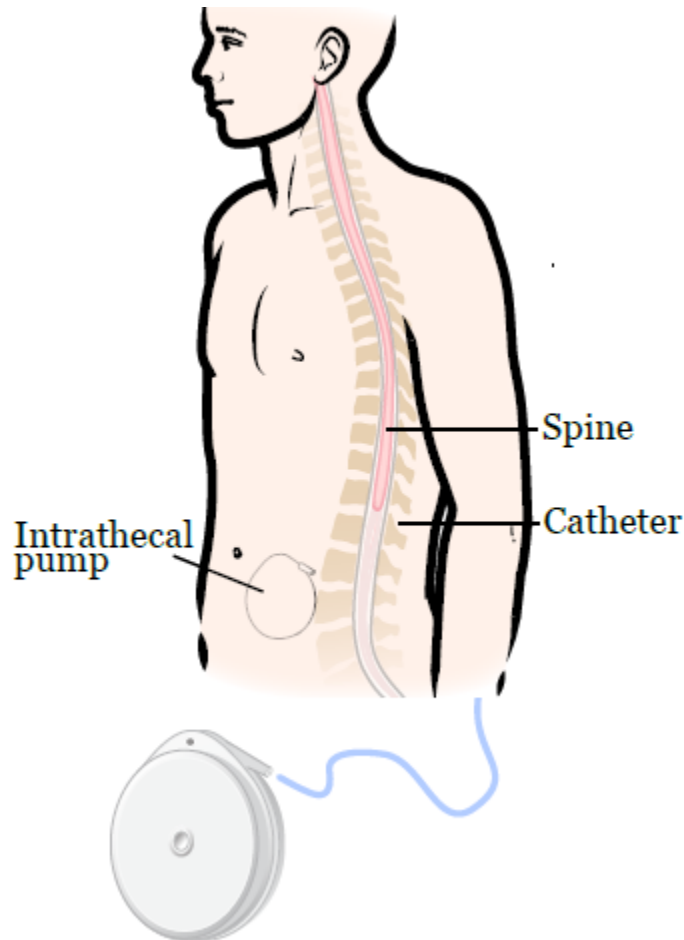


EMORY PAIN CENTER

Intrathecal Pump Refill

What is an intrathecal pump? An intrathecal pump is a medical device that delivers medication directly into the spinal fluid through a small catheter. It is used to manage chronic pain or spasticity that has not responded to other treatments. The pump is surgically implanted under the skin, usually in the abdomen, and is connected to the catheter, which is placed in the intrathecal space around the spinal cord.



Why is an intrathecal pump refill necessary? An intrathecal pump needs to be refilled periodically to ensure a continuous and effective delivery of medication. Over time, the pump reservoir will become empty or low on medication, requiring a refill. Regular refills are necessary to maintain pain or spasticity control and prevent withdrawal symptoms.

How often is an intrathecal pump refill needed? The frequency of intrathecal pump refills can vary depending on the individual's medication needs and the specific pump

system used. Generally, refills are needed every few weeks to several months. Your healthcare provider will determine the appropriate refill schedule for you based on your condition and medication requirements.

How is an intrathecal pump refill performed? An intrathecal pump refill is typically performed as an outpatient procedure. The refill procedure is usually done in the office or an ambulatory setting. Your healthcare provider will first cleanse the area around the pump reservoir with an antiseptic solution. A small needle will be inserted through the skin into the refill port on the pump. The medication will then be slowly injected into the reservoir. After the refill, the needle will be removed, and a sterile dressing may be applied.

What are the side effects/risks of an intrathecal pump refill? Intrathecal pump refills are generally safe, but like any medical procedure, they carry some risks. Common side effects may include temporary discomfort or pain at the needle insertion site, bruising, or minor bleeding. In rare cases, infection, bleeding, or damage to the pump system may occur. It is important to discuss any concerns or potential complications with your healthcare provider before the refill procedure.

What should I expect after an intrathecal pump refill? After the refill, your healthcare provider will monitor you for a short period to ensure there are no immediate complications. You may be advised to avoid strenuous activities or heavy lifting for a brief period following the procedure. It is important to keep track of your symptoms and report any changes or concerns to your healthcare provider.