



Trinity Health

Patient Guide to Continuous Nerve Block Catheter with Home Pain Pump

Orthopedic Surgeries

Trinity Health Ann Arbor,
Brighton, and Livingston

General Information

Nerve blocks can be used to help control some of your pain after surgery.

Because of the anatomy of nerves, a nerve block may not take away all your pain.

You may have areas of numbness and you may not be able to move your fingers or toes while the nerve block is in effect.

However, they are very helpful as an additional way to provide pain relief during the first few days after your surgery.



Nerve Block Catheter – What to Expect

On the day of surgery:

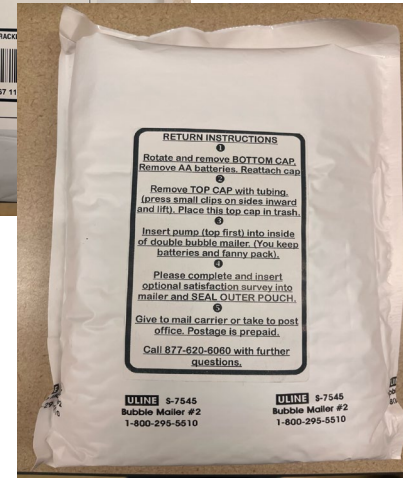
- The anesthesiologist will perform a nerve block and leave in place a catheter. *This is done in pre-op before surgery.*
- This tiny tube (catheter) is connected to a pump that will deliver numbing medication around the nerves near your surgery site.
- While you are getting ready for surgery, our educators will meet with your caregiver in the waiting room to review the pump instructions.

Nerve Block Catheter – What to Expect

- The pump is called an “AmbIT pump”
- There is enough numbing medicine in the AmbIT pump to give you about 3-4 days' worth of additional pain control.
- You will still be sent home with pain medicine prescribed by your surgeon.
- It is OK to take your prescribed pain medicine and use the pain pump.
- The pain nurses will review your instructions with you and your caregiver before you leave the hospital.

Nerve Block Catheter – What to Expect

- You will receive a labeled return mailer on the day of your surgery.
- This mailer is a white padded envelop.
- It contains more instructions about the pump.
- You will use it to return the pump to the vendor company.



Nerve Block Catheter – What to Expect

- When the numbing medicine in the pump is completed and empty:
 - You (or your caregiver) will remove the catheter (tiny tube) from your body.
 - *This is very quick, easy, and painless!*
 - Removal of the catheter does not require a visit to your surgeon's office.
 - You will return the pump only to the vendor company.

Nerve Block Catheter – What to Expect

- A phone number will be provided to you for any help you may need when it comes time to remove the catheter.
- There is also an instructional video available to watch before and after your surgery:
 - Link to video: [AmbIT pump informational video](#)

Nerve Block Placements:

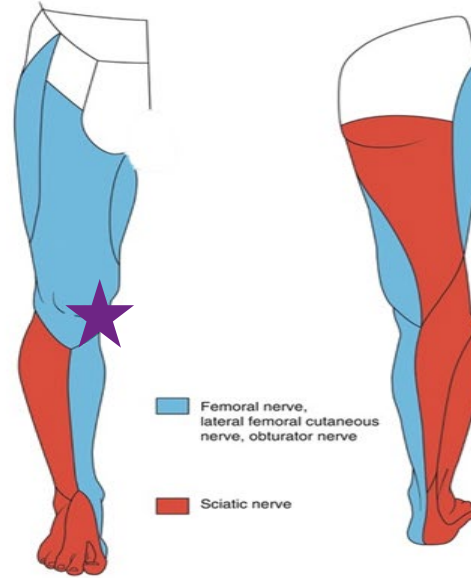
This chart reviews where to expect your nerve block catheter to be based on what surgery you are having:

Surgery Type:	Catheter Location:
Knee	Mid – Upper Thigh
Ankle/Foot	Outside of your leg behind your knee
Shoulder	Side of neck

The next few slides contain photo examples of what the nerve blocks look like →

Knee Surgery –

- The blue areas (inside of the knee) are where you should be numb after the block



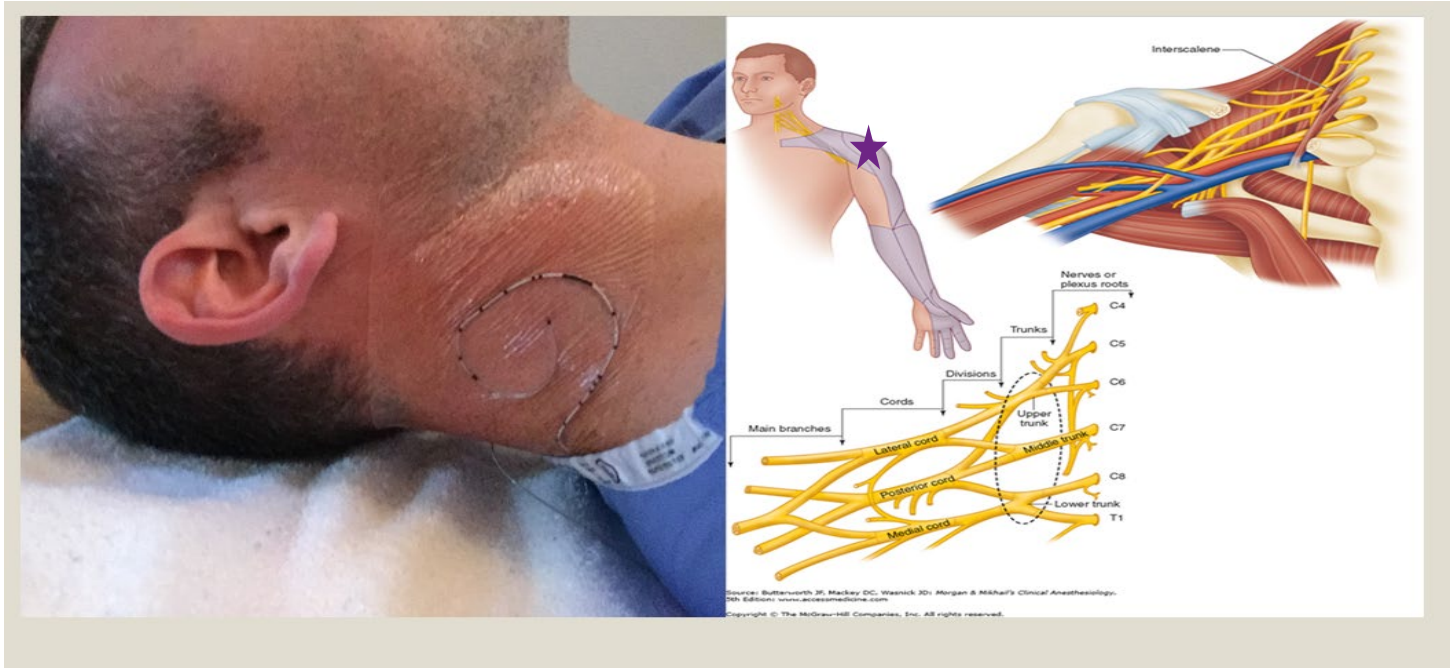
Ankle/Foot Surgery –

- The red areas (outside of the leg) are where you should be numb after the block



Shoulder Surgery –

- The blue areas (top of shoulder and outside of arm) are where you should be numb after the block



AmbIT Pump and Equipment:

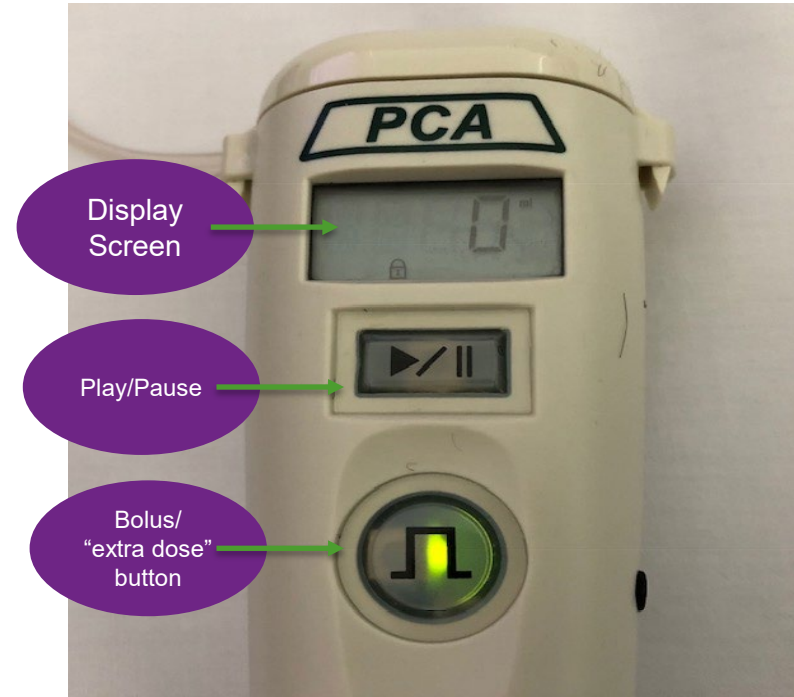


You will receive:

- The ambIT pump
- Bag of numbing medication and tubing
- Black nylon carrying bag
- White labeled padded mailer with additional information

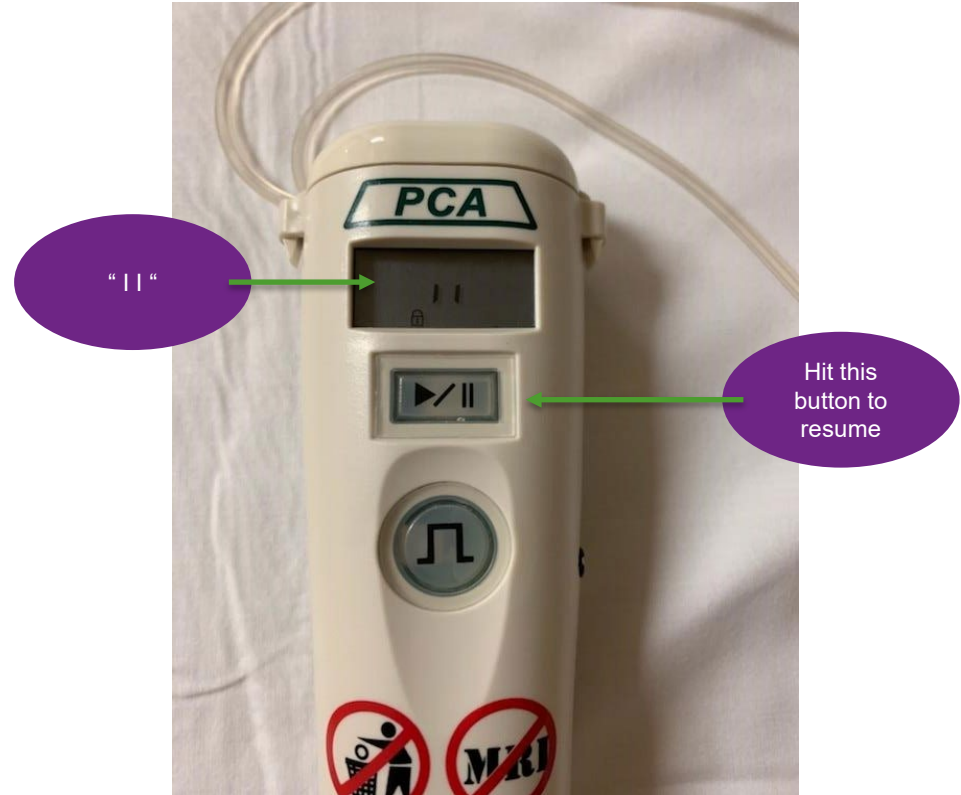
AmbIT Pump Functions – The Basics

- Check that the numbers on the display screen are counting up
- Check to make sure the circle button is flashing
- *If you see a number on the screen & the circle is flashing, the pump is on and running.*



AmbIT Pump Functions – The Basics

- Two vertical lines in the display screen of the pump indicate the pump has been paused.
- Restart the pump by pressing the play/pause button



AmbIT Pump Functions – The Basics

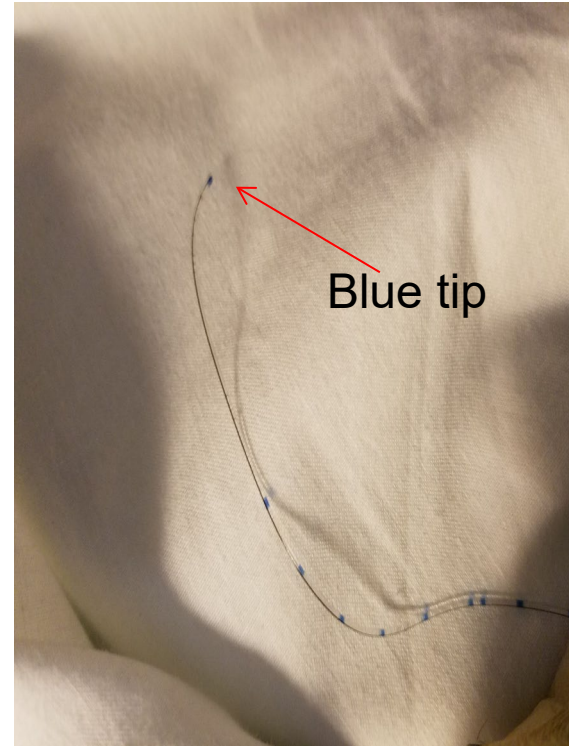
- You will know the medicine is completed and it is time to remove when the display numbers are at:
- Knee Surgery = 800
- Ankle/Foot Surgery = 800
- Shoulder Surgery = 600



Removing Your Nerve Block Catheter:

- Follow the detailed instructions given on the day of surgery
 - Refer to the video link
- Remove all tape covering your nerve block
- Gently pull the catheter
- Pull until the entire catheter is out and a blue tip is visible at the end

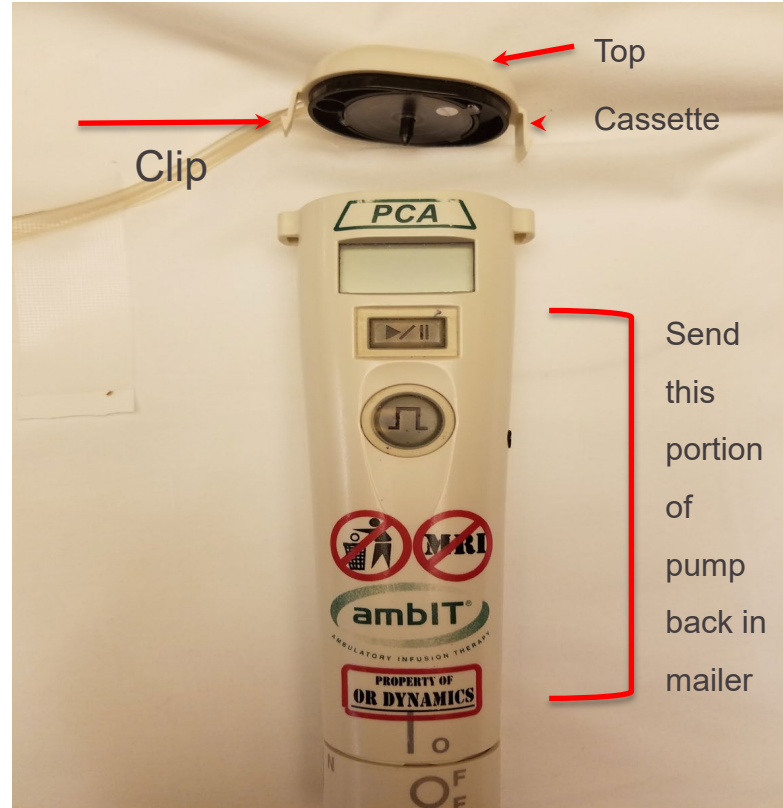
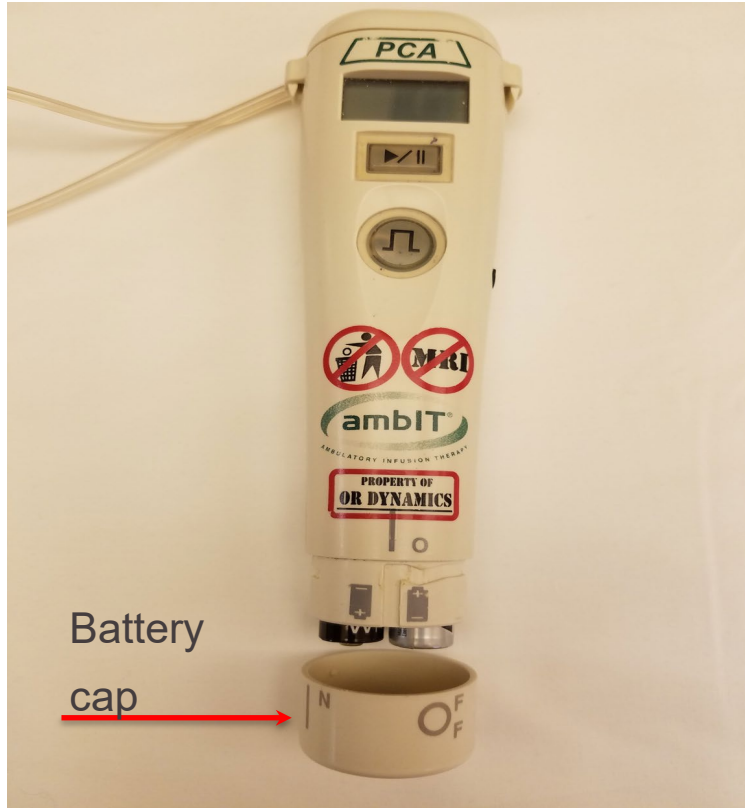
Removing Your Nerve Block Catheter:



Preparing Your Pump to Return Via Mail (USPS) :

- Take apart the top portion of the pump (cassette)
 - This un-clips from the pump
- Discard the cassette, tubing, and empty bag of medicine
- Take the batteries out of the bottom
- Place the pump in the white envelope
- Seal and drop off at the Post Office (USPS)

Preparing Your Pump to Return Via Mail (USPS):



A Few Reminders About the Pump and Nerve Catheter:

- No showering or bathing with the catheter and pump in place
- Make sure to always carry the black bag with you while the pump is in place
- It is **OK** to take your other prescribed pain medications while the pump is in place
- Avoid direct contact with extreme temperatures
 - Ice is OK to use if it is not directly on your skin and does not get the pump wet

A Few Reminders About the Pump and Nerve Catheter:

- You will be discharged from the hospital with more detailed information about your nerve block.
- This information will be in your After Visit Summary (AVS)
 - It is very important you read this again once you get home after surgery.

Who to Contact After you Leave the Hospital:

The pump is supplied by OR Dynamics. If you have any questions about your pump please contact OR Dynamics 24-hour hotline at

877-620-6060.

If no return call in 5 – 10 mins call

888-343-7171

Contact OR Dynamics if you experience:

- Unexpected alarm sounds
- Any questions relating to the use of the pump
- Any side effects from the pump medication

This completes the pre-surgery Nerve
Block Catheter and Home Pain Pump
education.

Thank you for your time.

**We look forward to taking care of
you!**