

## Algoline Catheter

### OVERVIEW

This procedure is performed on patient's who have Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) and have not responded to lumbar sympathetic blocks or stellate ganglion blocks, post-herpetic neuralgia (shingle pain), cancer pain and post surgical pain (post knee, hip, etc surgery). Using a tunneled algoline catheter for pain control is a way to control the pain without repeated injections or oral medication. These catheters are placed for a period of 3 weeks to 6 months. This procedure is performed in the operating room at a hospital.

### STEP 1

You will be placed under Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC anesthesia), which will put you to sleep while the catheter is placed.

### STEP 2

You will be placed prone (face down). A small incision is made in your mid to low back (depending on the site of your pain).

### STEP 3

A catheter is tunneled through the incision site to the epidural space (space surrounding your spinal cord). This is done under fluoroscopic (x-ray) guidance to assure the catheter is placed properly and to prevent any complications.

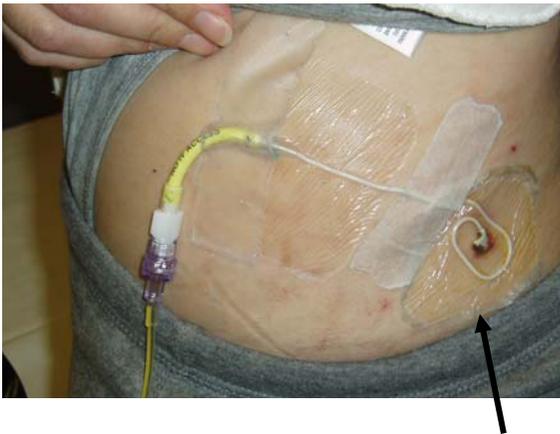
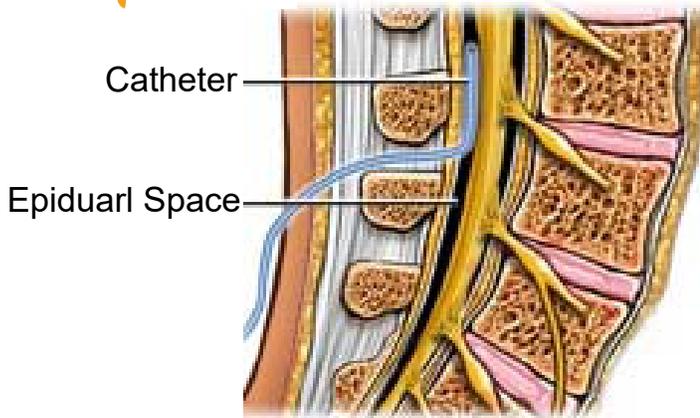
### STEP 4

The catheter is sutured in place. The permanent catheter comes out of a small incision in the lower back. You will have a small incision with stitches and dressing.

### STEP 5

A small nurse controlled pump with a bag inside is attached to the catheter to provide constant flow of medication. The bag is filled with pain medication (usually marcaine/bupivacaine or fentanyl). Home Health will be arranged to come to your home every 3 days to replace the bag of medication, change the dressing and tubing.

You will be able to walk while the algoline catheter is functioning. However you may not drive while receiving opioid medication.



Catheter exits through a small incision in the lower back



IV Bag is hooked to Infusion pump and able to be carried in a carrying case with a strap.