

What to Expect for Your Child's Baclofen Pump Implant

This information helps you know what to expect on the day of your child's surgery and during your child's hospital stay. If you have any questions, be sure to ask your child's health care provider.

What happens first?

When your child has signed in on the third floor of Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, they will be shown to a holding room. Two adults may stay in the holding room with your child. Your child will:

- change into hospital clothes
- get their blood pressure and temperature taken
- meet with the health care team: surgeon, anesthesia, nurse practitioners, and nurses.

Important

- **Your child is not allowed to eat or drink before surgery. Follow these guidelines:**
 - stop all solid food, candy, or gum 6 hours before going to the hospital
 - stop all milk, formula, and tube feedings 6 hours before going to the hospital
 - stop all breast milk 4 hours before going to the hospital
- **If your child takes medicines, is on tube feedings, or cannot go longer than 4 hours without fluids, please call the PATCH clinic at (615) 936-1840.**

(continued)

Family

- **Your nurse will let you know where you can wait during surgery.**
- **If you need to go eat or drink after your child is in the operating room, please tell the Guest Services Representative.**

What happens next?

- Your child will move to the operating room.
- Older children and teens will have their IVs placed in the holding room.

At the end of your child's surgery, the doctor will meet with you and your family to explain what happened during surgery and give your family an update on how your child is doing.

What happens in the recovery room?

As soon as your child begins waking up, you will be asked to join them in the recovery room. Two adults may be with your child in the recovery room.

- Your child may find stickers on their chest. These are EKG leads, which show your child's heart rate on a monitor.
- Your child will also have a blood pressure cuff and a clip (pulse oximeter) on their finger to check the level of oxygen in your child's blood.
- The IV will stay in place to give fluids and medicine to your child.
- After spending time in the recovery room, your child will be moved to a regular hospital room.

What happens in the hospital room?

Your child will need to lay flat in bed until the day after surgery. Your child will be able to sit up the next morning.

If your child is in pain after surgery, they will be given pain medicine. If you feel your child needs pain medicine, ask their nurse.

Your child's health care providers will care for your child and keep track of their progress every day. Most children will stay overnight after baclofen pump implant surgery and go home the next day.

What should I expect when we go home?

While you're here, we'll teach you how to care for your child's pump site. We'll also give you written info that you can take home.

At the pump site on the belly

- For a few days or weeks, your child may have fluid around the site where the pump was placed in their stomach. This is normal.

At the incision on the back

- For a few days or weeks, your child may have fluid around the incision site on the back. This is normal.
- The dressing should be removed 3 days after surgery and the incision should then stay uncovered. After the dressing is removed, you should start washing the incision with soap and water.
- Your child can shower or have a sponge bath. The incisions should not get soaked or go under water, such as in a bathtub or pool, until your child's surgeon says it is okay.

(continued)

Activity and Therapy

- For 2 weeks after surgery, your child:
 - should not do any activities that cause stress on the incision site, such as bending, twisting, or reaching overhead
 - can participate in light physical or occupational therapy. Do not let your child do any exercise that could put stress on or twist the pump site.
- Dress your child in loose clothing until the incision site is healed, as tight clothing around the pump site, such as elastic waistbands or belts, can irritate the incision and pump site.
- Your child should not swim or be in a pool for fun or therapy until your child's surgeon says it is okay.

Medicines

- You may give your child acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin or Advil) for pain.
- If your child is taking medicine for muscle tone (such as oral baclofen or tizanidine), **do not** stop giving these medicines. As the pump starts working, we'll tell you how to cut back on those medicines.

School or Work

A child may stay out of school for up to 2 weeks after surgery. Plans can be individualized to each patient depending on their needs.

Equipment

If your child has any equipment that puts pressure on the pump site (such as a brace or wheelchair), the equipment may need to be adjusted so it does not press or rub on the pump site. Talk to your child's health care provider about equipment needs.

When should I call the doctor's office?

Call the Neurosurgery Clinic at (615) 322-6875 if your child has:

- redness, swelling, or drainage from or around the incision
- temperature of 101.5°F (38.6°C) or higher
- pain that pain medicine does not make better.

Call the Intrathecal Baclofen Pump Clinic at (615) 936-0249 if:

- your child has a sudden increase in spasticity
- your child has a sudden increase in muscle weakness or no muscle tone
- the pump's alarm is sounding.

When will my child come back to the clinic?

You will return to the Neurosurgery Clinic 2 to 3 weeks after your child's pump surgery, unless there are concerns earlier than that.

You will come to the Intrathecal Baclofen Pump Clinic 2 to 3 weeks after your child's surgery. You will continue coming to the Baclofen Pump Clinic every few weeks until your child's pump is giving your child the right amount of medicine (therapeutic pump rate).