

Patient Control Analgesia Instructions



**Taiwan Adventist Hospital
Department of Anesthesia**

● Pain

Have you had any pain experiences?

Research shows that post-operative pain is the major concern in 57% of surgery patients.

There are still as high as 71% of patients who are not satisfied with conventional pain control.

Pain is a very subjective feeling. “Patient Control Analgesia” allows the patient to have access to manage their pain accordingly.

Therefore the patient can have adequate rest due to less pain, leading to a more rapid recovery.



● What is “Patient Control Analgesia”?

By connecting a portable computer-programmed “Patient Control Analgesia” (PCA) machine to the patient, it releases pain-killers both periodically and whenever the patient cannot cope with the pain or is facing an event of increasing pain such as: roll-over, get off bed, change

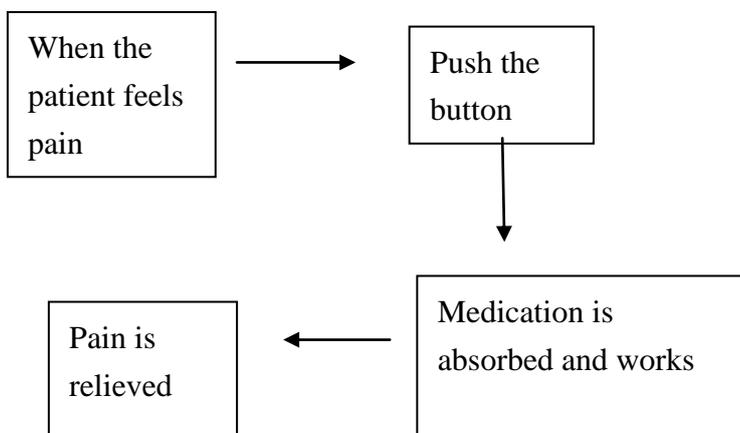
dressing, rehabilitation, etc. Pressing the white button before those events would help pain relief in a couple of minutes.

There are currently 2 models of PCA used in our hospital :

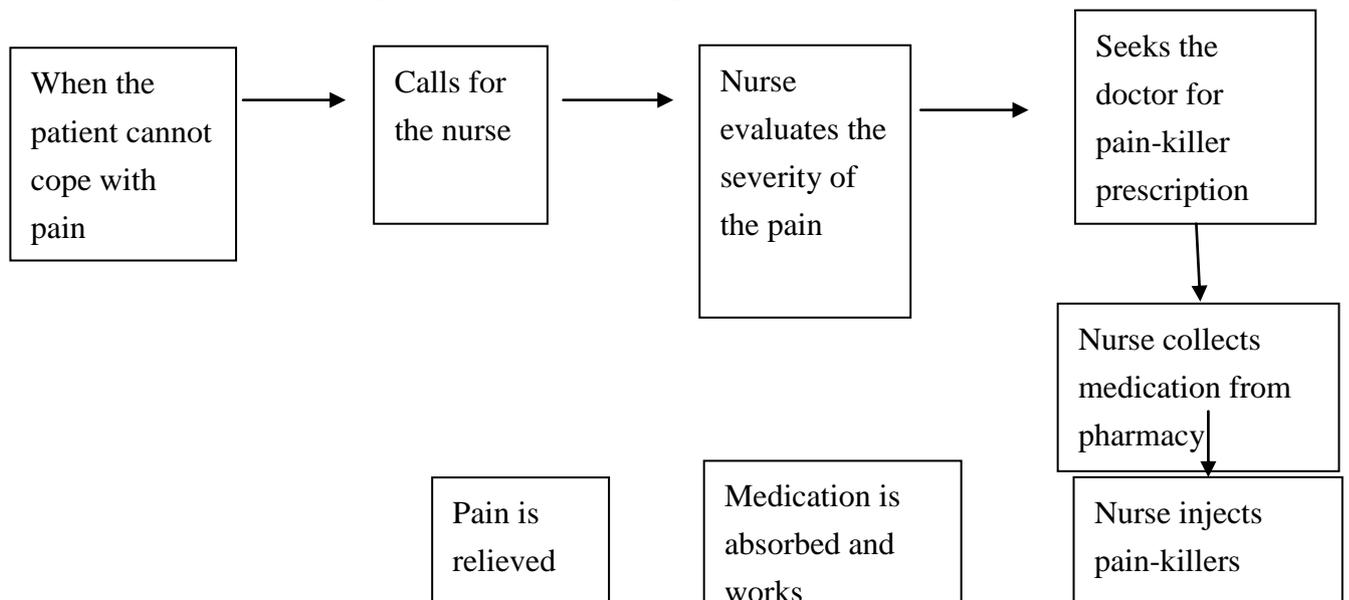
- 1. Intra-venous PCA** : pain-killers are given from the intra-venous line.
- 2. Epidural PCA** : pain-killers are given through an epidural catheter which is placed in the epidural space. This is more effective for relieving pain in the lower limbs, abdomen and chest.

● Comparison between PCA and conventional pain control :

1. PCA process : 3 minutes



2. Conventional pain control process : 30 minutes

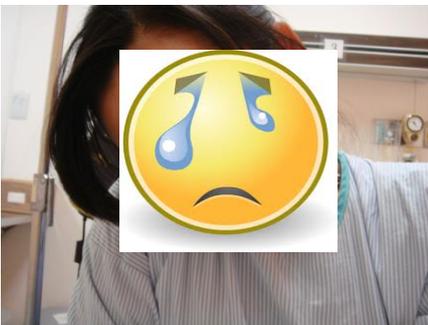




● **PCA Advantages :**

1. Shortens the suffering from pain
2. Dosage adjustment is based on the patient's needs
3. Reliable pain relieving
4. Controlled by the patient
5. With less pain, the patient can start mobilization earlier, promoting wound healing and reducing complications.

● **Instructions for PCA :**



When patient feels pain



Press the white button



Pain is relieved

● Precautions

- 1.** Pain is a very subjective feeling, therefore a self-controlled pain management method is the most suitable and effective.
- 2.** The button should only be operated by the patients themselves. It is inappropriate for even relatives to press the button for them.
- 3.** Approximately 15~20% of patients may experience nausea, vomiting, dizziness and itching a few days after the operation. If this occurs, it can be alleviated by adjusting the dosage or using anti-emetics.
- 4.** Very few patients might experience drowsiness or slow breathing (less than 8 times per minutes). If this occurs, please let the nurse know immediately.
- 5.** PCA usage does not cause the wound to heal slower and does not slow down your digestive system. It is very safe to use if you follow the instructions.
- 6.** A well-trained anesthetic technician will monitor you periodically to check your condition. If you have any problems please discuss with the

technician.

● **Safety Control**

The anesthesiologist will set the machine according to the patient's age, weight, type of surgery, and physical status to have a safety interval (around 5-20 minutes). This means that if the patient presses the button again within the interval, no medication is given, avoiding overdose.

● **Fees**

PCA is not included in National Health Insurance.

1. Intra-venous PCA :

NT\$7,000 for the 1st day, NT\$1,500 per day from the second day onwards

2. Epidural PCA :

NT\$7,000 for the 1st day, NT\$2,000 per day from the second day onwards

● **Contact Us**

If you have any questions about **PCA** please contact us on:

Department of Anesthesia through internal extension: **2561**

***Wish you a successful operation and
speedy recovery***

Taiwan Adventist Hospital

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