

LAID: Home instructions

What is LAID?

LAID stands for **local anesthetic infusion device**. It's a small device with a pump that delivers a constant flow of numbing medicine directly to a specific part of your body. The medicine is pumped through a long, thin tube called a **catheter**. Usually, the catheter is put in place at the time of your surgery. It may still be in place when you leave the hospital.

Why do I need it?

The medicine in a LAID reduces pain after surgery. The LAID allows you to continue getting pain medicine for a few days after you go home. This usually means you can go home from the hospital sooner.

How much medicine will I get?

The doctor will select and set up the device to give you the amount of medicine you need. The medicine is infused slowly, so don't worry if at first the amount in the bottle or the size of the ball doesn't appear to be decreasing. Some pumps allow you to give yourself a little extra medicine. These pumps also have a lockout feature that will prevent you from getting too much.

How do I care for my LAID?

While your LAID is in place, follow these steps to keep it safe:

- 1 When moving around, carry your LAID in a carrying case or attached to your clothing.
- 2 While sleeping, tuck the LAID under your pillow. Don't put it on the floor or hang it above your head.
- 3 Do not put the pump in water or other liquids.



When should I call the doctor?

It is normal to have a "scratchy" or hoarse voice. This is a normal side effect that will end when your LAID is removed.

- **Call your doctor** if you have any of these signs of infection:
 - Redness, swelling, or warmth around the place where the catheter enters the skin
 - Increased pain
 - Itching or hives
 - Fever or chills
 - Nausea or vomiting
- **Call your doctor right away** if you have any of these symptoms:
 - Numbness around your lips or tongue
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Dizziness
 - Blurred vision
 - Ringing in your ears
 - Hearing loss
 - Metallic taste in your mouth
 - Uncontrollable shaking
- **Tell your caregivers to call 911 immediately if you are having seizures.**

When should I remove it?

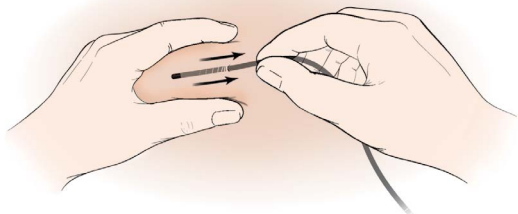
Your care team will give you instructions on when and how to remove the LAID. This is usually about 48 hours (2 days) after you get it. Write the day and time below that you should remove your device:

Day: _____ Time: _____

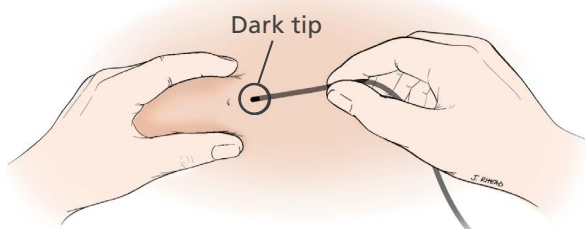
How do I remove it?

When the pump is empty, or when the time has come to remove it, follow these steps:

- 1 Clean your hands** with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- 2 Remove the dressing and any tape** used to hold the catheter in place.
- 3 Do not cut the catheter.** Firmly grasp the catheter near the skin. Pull it gently backward out of the skin. If it does not slide out easily, call your doctor.



- 4 Check the tip of the catheter** to make sure it is not broken. There should be a dark mark on the tip. If the catheter seems to be broken, contact your doctor. Be sure to keep the catheter, as your doctor may want to see it.



- 5 Cover the site with a bandage.** You don't need to put antiseptic or ointment on it.
- 6 Contact your doctor** if you notice any signs of infection at the catheter site, including redness, warmth, pain, a lot of drainage, or swelling.

What should I do with the device after I have removed it?

If you have a device with a ball, like the one pictured at right, you can throw it away.



If you have a programmable device, a nurse may come to your home to get it. If not, return it to your doctor on your next visit, or call the device maker for instructions.

How will I control my pain after the device is removed?

Your doctor may give you a prescription for pain medicine. Be sure to fill it on the way home from the hospital. To stay safe, follow your doctor's instructions carefully.

Where can I get help?

If you have trouble removing your LAID, or if you have any of the concerns listed under the "When should I call my doctor?" section of this handout, call your doctor's office.

If you have mechanical trouble with the pump, call the number on the device or visit the manufacturer's website.

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