

What Is A McKinley T34 Syringe Pump?

It is a small portable battery operated pump which allows medication to be given continuously just under the skin over a set 24 hour period.

Why Is One Needed?

The syringe pump is an other way of delivering medications in order to aim to control symptoms. A syringe pump may be needed if:

- You are having difficulty swallowing medication in tablet or syrup form.
- You feel nauseated or you are vomiting frequently.
- Your symptoms are difficult to control by oral medications.

The reason for using a syringe pump will be explained to you by your nurse. A syringe pump might be used at any period during your illness and may be discontinued if it is no longer needed.

How Does The Syringe Pump Work?

The nurse will insert a small needle or plastic tube subcutaneously, just under the skin, and a clear dressing will be placed over to keep it in place. The needle or small plastic tube will be connected by a thin tube to a syringe containing your medication, which is then attached to the syringe

pump. The syringe pump gradually pushes the syringe plunger in order to deliver the medication over 24 hours.

Who Will Look After The Syringe Pump?

Your nurse will regularly check that the syringe pump is operating correctly and that you are receiving your prescribed medications and that the needle/tube site is comfortable. If the site becomes red or sore the nurse will remove the needle/tube and will resite a new one in another part of your body. The nurse will also change the syringe in the syringe pump each day.

Your Doctor or Specialist Nurse will review the medications in the syringe pump on a regular basis. If your symptoms continue or alter in anyway once the syringe pump is commenced please inform you Doctor, Nurse or Specialist Nurse as the medication may need to be changed to improve the control of your symptoms.

How To Know If The Syringe Pump Is Working Correctly.

If the syringe pump is working correctly a small light situated above the 'ON/OFF' button will flash green twice a minute. If this light turns red then this indicates that there is a problem with the syringe pump.

What To Do If The Syringe Pump Bleeps Or An Alarm Sounds?

Some of the common reasons why the syringe pump may alarm are:

- The syringe is nearly empty and the nurse should be preparing a new syringe to replace the empty one.
- The infusion has completed and the syringe needs to be changed.
- The battery may need changing.
- The pump has been paused for too long.
- There is a kink in the thin tube which attaches to the syringe.
- The syringe or plunger has become detached from the syringe pump.

If the syringe pump alarms for any reason the most important thing is not to worry and to inform your nurse. Do not try to do anything yourself without speaking to your nurse.

You should Inform your Nurse If:

- The colour of the medication in the syringe has changed or become cloudy.
- The skin around the needle/tube has become swollen, red or painful.
- If you have any other concerns.

What To Do With Your Syringe Pump.

- If you are walking around, you may find it helpful to carry the syringe pump in a small bag or pouch.
- If you are resting in the chair, or you are in bed, the syringe pump can be placed next to you on a flat surface but do not place it higher than the level of the needle/tube site.
- Ensure that you keep mobile phones that are switched on at least an arms length away from the pump as they may affect how the pump works.

What Not To Do With Your Syringe Pump.

- Do not interfere with the thin tube which is connected to the syringe.
- Do not press the buttons on the syringe pump control panel.
- Do not get the syringe pump wet or submerge it in water.
- Do not drop the syringe pump.
- Do not expose the syringe pump to direct heat or bright sunlight.

In the event of any of these happening please inform your nurse.

Useful Information:

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Key people involved in your care:

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T34 Syringe Pump



Information for Patients
and carers.