Hepatic Arterial Infusion Pump

A Hepatic Arterial Infusion Pump (HAIP) is used to give chemotherapy directly into your liver. The pump is implanted, which means it is put under your skin during surgery. A tube from the pump goes into a blood vessel in your liver. This lets the chemotherapy drip slowly, but constantly into your liver to treat the cancer.

The pump is smaller than a hockey puck. You will be able to feel the pump through the skin on your stomach.

To use the pump, a needle is put through the skin into an opening in the pump. The pump can hold 30 ml (about 2 tablespoons) of medicine. This will last 2 to 3 weeks. The pump will be filled during your surgery, so it will be working right away. The pump can also be used to inject medicines into your liver. This requires a special needle, but will feel the same as refilling the pump.
What care will the pump need?

The pump will need to be refilled about every 2 weeks to make sure there is always fluid in the pump. Each time the pump is filled, all of the old medicine is removed and new medicine is put in. The flow rate of your pump will be checked every time this is done to make sure you are getting the correct amount of medicine each time. The pump flow rate can change depending on pressure and temperature. You may be asked to stop doing some activities to prevent a big change in the flow rate.

Are there any activities that I should not do after the pump is in place?

After you recover from your surgery you will be able to do most of the activities you did before the pump was put in, but there are some that you should not do.

Activities that you **should not** do include:

- Playing rough or doing contact sports that could hurt the pump.
- Deep sea or scuba diving – these cause increased pressure that could change the flow rate. You can swim or snorkel.
- Using a heating pad or water bottle on the pump area – the heat can increase the flow rate.
- Spending time in a sauna or hot tub – the heat can increase the flow rate.

**It is very important that you tell your doctor if you are having fevers.**

What happens if I miss an appointment?

It is very important to keep your appointments to make sure your pump is working correctly. **If you are unable to keep your appointment, call the office right away to make other arrangements.**

Can I have an MRI?

Yes, you can have an MRI with a pump in place as long as the appropriate safety measures are taken. It is important to tell the radiology technologist that you have an implanted pump. Be sure to bring the Patient Identification Card with the make and model of your pump.

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Can I have blood drawn through the pump?
This pump has a very special, specific use. Blood cannot be drawn from the pump or port. The pump should never have pressure applied to remove fluid or blood. This could damage the pump. Only specially trained doctors and nurses should work with this pump.

Can I get other IV medicine, like anti-nausea medicine, through this pump?
Only certain medicines are safe to give through this special pump. Only a doctor who has experience with this type of pump should prescribe medicines to be given using the pump.

Can I travel with the pump?
Let your doctor know if you are traveling by airplane or if you are changing elevation because the pressure can change the flow rate. The doctor may need to change the schedule to refill your pump to make sure you have plenty of medicine in the pump when you travel or do anything that could change the flow rate.

Will the pump set off airport security systems?
It is unlikely that the metal would be detected, but it is important for you to always carry the Patient Identification Card you are given when the pump is placed. The information on the card will help security understand what the pump is used for, and it will also help others know what to do in case you have an emergency that requires medical care.