


Pain Service

Signs to look out for after an epidural infusion for pain relief

Information for young people



Signs to look out for after an epidural for pain relief

The epidural was removed on

Although it is very unusual, sometimes an epidural infusion may cause a few problems inside your back. The chance of this happening is classed as rare; affecting only 1 person out of every 10,000 people.

It is very important that you tell your parents or carers if you feel that something is not right, as it could be serious. They can help you look out for any of the signs shown in the list below.

The reason why these symptoms are serious is because the epidural space where you had the infusion is close to your spinal cord. If a collection of pus (an abscess) or blood clot forms in this area, it can cause pressure on your spinal cord. It is very important to diagnose and treat these problems as quickly as possible, to prevent long-lasting damage to your spinal cord.

Over the next month you and your parents or carers need to look out for any of the signs listed below:

- back pain which is new or getting worse
- feeling hot, with a high temperature or neck stiffness
- numbness, weakness or any changed feeling in your legs
- not being able to pass urine or control your bowels
- a new or different headache, which is worse when you are sitting or standing up
- redness, tenderness and discharge/ooze from the epidural site on your back.

If you think you have any of the signs listed above, please get your parents or carer to take you to your nearest accident and emergency department (A&E) immediately.
Please tell the doctor that you have recently had an epidural.

For non-urgent advice

If any medical staff treating you have questions about the treatment we have given you, they can contact us at the Inpatient Service.

John Radcliffe Hospital

Tel. **01865 220 284** or **01865 741 166**
ask to Bleep 1400 or 1362

Churchill Hospital

Tel. **01865 225 403** or **01865 741 841**
ask to Bleep 4375

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**

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