

Side Effects of Baclofen Pump and Surgery

Side Effects of the Intrathecal Pump

The two most common side effects (complications) of having an intrathecal baclofen pump are overdose and withdrawal.

Call your baclofen pump doctor right away if you have any of the following symptoms.

Overdose

- having very low muscle tone (“floppy” muscle)
- feeling drowsy or sleepy
- passing out or not responding well
- feeling dizzy
- having slow or shallow breathing
- having unusual headaches
- having seizures
- having any change in your mental status.

Withdrawal

- having more spasms (“twitchy” muscles)
- feeling itchy all over your body
- feeling irritable
- being unable to think clearly
- having any change in your mental status
- having a high body temperature, sweating
- having changes in your blood pressure
- having seizures.

Side Effects of Surgery

All surgeries have some risks of side effects.

Call your surgeon if you have any of the following symptoms.

- temperature of 101 F or higher
- increased or new pain
- increased redness around the surgery sites
- increased swelling at the surgery sites
- bleeding or drainage from the surgery sites
- any problems urinating or having a bowel movement.

Fluid collection over the pump

Sometimes, body fluid can collect over the pump. If this happens:

- Restart the use of the abdominal binder. Call your pump doctor at the clinic during normal clinic hours if you have swelling at the pump site but don't have pain, redness, warmth or drainage.
- If you have swelling with pain, redness, warmth of drainage, don't use the binder and call your pump doctor.