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## PAINFREE PUMP—FOR POSTOPERATIVE COMFORT

*The First and the Best Ambulatory Pain Management Device*

Recent years have witnessed an increased interest in postoperative pain management. Unrelieved pain after surgery often is unhealthy. Furthermore, the quality of a patient's final result frequently depends upon how pain is managed in the first few days following surgery. Fortunately, postoperative pain can be prevented or controlled. The **PainFree Pump** by **Sgarlato Laboratories** (Los Gatos, CA), a patented spring-operated pain management solution, is an innovative approach to pain management and recovery that focuses on accelerated healing and faster rehabilitation. This portable delivery system is designed to provide continuous infusion of a local anesthetic to the surgical wound site to decrease postoperative pain. The PainFree Pump is the most consistent pump on the market, making it the most accurate. The technology behind this device has been advancing for more than two decades. The PainFree Pump is a refinement and enhancement of Sgarlato's successful **Pain Control Infusion Pump (PCIP)**, which was first introduced in 1996. Based on years of physician and patient feedback, independent clinical research, and ongoing R&D efforts, the PainFree Pump is expected to be just as successful than the PCIP, if not more so.

Using a unique, patented technology, the PainFree Pump's spring-operated syringe

allows consistent and accurate pressure to force medication to the flow restrictor, which regulates the amount of medication that passes into the catheter. The tamper-resistant design and unique flow restrictor prevent excess drug delivery and rate manipulation. Catheter placement is absolutely the physician's choice and can be placed anywhere the physician feels it will best saturate the area (near a nerve, nerve bundle, intra-articular,



subcutaneous, or subfascia). Based on the application, there are several customizable setup options. The physician chooses the medication (e.g., Bupivacaine HCl, Lidocaine HCl, or Ropivacaine HCl), flow rate, and time of therapy, selecting between 100-mL or 200-mL pumps; 1-mL, 2-mL, or 4-mL/hour flow regulators, and multiple catheter choices (20-gauge, 3-port and 20-gauge, 5-port), as well as a multi-site "Y" connector. Depending on the volume and flow rate chosen,

1—4 days of medication can be directed to the pain site. The catheter is held comfortably and firmly in place so as not to pull out. A carrying pouch is included in the kit and can be attached to the patient's clothing. The PainFree Pump is the easiest to use on the market: Once the physician fills the pump, chooses a desired flow rate, and inserts the catheter, that is it! The PainFree Pump does all the work.

The main difference between the PainFree Pump and all other pumps on the market is

the fundamental flow design of the pump. Other pump designs use a balloon or vacuum system that has a higher percentage of faulting than the PainFree Pump's spring-operated system. Additionally, the PainFree Pump is not temperature-dependent for flow rate accuracy, and there are calibrations on the outside of the pump that indicate how much medication has been infused.

As for safety, the infection rate for the PainFree Pump is less than 1%, and there is information available showing the anti-microbial affects of Bupivacaine. The pump is made of a hard polycarbonate substance used to keep the medication stable and protected from harm, unlike balloon-type pumps, which can puncture. The PainFree pump is *not* a patient-controlled device. The PainFree Pump is not designed for rapid infusion of medications or for patients with a history of allergic reactions to local anesthetics. The PainFree Pump system also is functionally latex-free to lessen the chance of any allergic reaction.


The ideal goal for postoperative pain relief should be to reduce or eliminate pain and discomfort with a minimum of side effects. Systemic narcotics often are used to eliminate pain, but also can limit the patient's ability to function or return to daily routines.

The PainFree Pump, on the other hand, can drastically increase a patient's postoperative comfort and mobilization. Further, its lightweight and compact design encourages patient compliance. Dennis MacIlain of Boca Raton, FL, a patient of Dominic Kleinhuesz, MD, recently underwent a surgical procedure on his right shoulder and was treated for postoperative pain with the PainFree Pump. Mr. MacIlain was very impressed. "I went home with the unit and was absolutely amazed how profoundly wonderful it worked. I had no pain whatsoever while wearing the unit, and didn't take any pain medicine either. I was able to get back to my job within a week's time. I believe that without use of this product, my recovery wouldn't have been so quick."

The PainFree Pump is cost-effective and a low-cost alternative to other more costly forms of pain treatment. A survey of physicians using the PainFree Pump post-surgically shows the greatest cost benefit is the decreased time the patient spends in the post-operative recovery unit (PACU), where nursing time and care are at a premium. The PACU time saved may be 50%, or 1-2 hours, depending on a particular patient's pain level. The savings continue once the patient leaves the recovery room, limiting or reducing nursing care

and potentially expensive clinician intervention. Discharge from the hospital could come 1-2 days earlier with enhanced pain management. There also is the cost saving of the narcotics, compared with using the PainFree Pump. Insurance billing is available.

The pump is indicated for use in a wide variety of surgeries, including general, orthopedic, gynecologic, and plastic surgery procedures. Anesthesiologists also can benefit from use of the PainFree Pump, which can be used to extend regional blocks (Psoas, Scalene, and Femoral) to administer medication effectively to the nerve post-operatively, providing the patient with a few days of no pain instead of a few hours.

Founded in 1986 by Dr. Thomas E. Sgarlato, Sgarlato Labs, Inc.—the leader in portable infusion pain management—invents, designs, manufactures, and markets medical devices and innovative therapeutic products for surgical use. 

For more information concerning the PainFree Pump and other Sgarlato Labs products, call 1-800-421-5303; e-mail to [sales@sgarlatolabs.com](mailto:sales@sgarlatolabs.com); contact a Sgarlato representative at ASPS, booth #1520; or visit the company's Web site at [www.sgarlatolabs.com](http://www.sgarlatolabs.com).