



Intrathecal Catheterization Handling Instructions

All procedures must be performed using aseptic technique.

Materials

- Sterile cup of surgical skin disinfectant
- Forceps and hemostats, and cushioning for them
- Sterile tuberculin syringes
- Sterile blunted 27-gauge needles
- Sterile artificial cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
- Sterile 70% alcohol wipes/gauze
- Sterile saline solution

Dosing Procedure

1. This process is best performed with two people: one person gently restraining the animal while the second person performs the procedure.
2. Clean the incision site using a surgical skin disinfectant.
3. Gently pull the plug, together with the catheter, free of the wound clip and out of the skin pocket. It is easier to put the catheter back in the skin pocket if only 1-2 inches of the catheter is pulled out.
4. Thoroughly clean the exteriorized portion of the catheter, especially around the catheter tip and plug, with a sterile 70% alcohol wipe/gauze.
5. To remove the plug, use a hemostat to clamp the tip of the plug. Pull the hemostat and the plug while the junction of the tubing at the plug is held firmly with cushioned forceps. Clean the plug thoroughly with a sterile 70% alcohol wipe/gauze and place in a sterile cup of surgical disinfectant.
6. Using a sterile tuberculin syringe and blunted 27-gauge needle, make the infusion into the catheter without withdrawal of the artificial CSF lock solution. Bolus injections of 10 uL may be administered over a period

of 15 to 30 seconds. Continuous infusion may be delivered at a rate of 1.0 μ L per minute.

7. Using a sterile tuberculin syringe and blunted 27-gauge needle, relock the catheter with artificial CSF using the dead volume specified on the surgery paperwork supplied with the order.
8. Using a cushioned instrument, clamp the end of the catheter and then remove the syringe. Using sterile forceps, rinse the plug in sterile saline. Release the pressure with the cushioned forceps and push the plug into the catheter tip, leaving only one-third exposed.
9. Clean the catheter with a sterile 70% alcohol wipe/gauze.
10. Carefully place the catheter back into the skin pocket using sterile forceps, and then gently tighten the wound clip to secure the catheter tip/plug in place.

Miscellaneous

- Animals must be housed individually.
- The catheter should always be kept in the skin pocket when not being used.
- Starting from the surgery date, the wound clip securing the catheter plug must be changed every 7-10 days to ensure catheter security. Surgery dates are listed on the paperwork supplied with each order.
- If catheter maintenance is performed daily, this model may be kept patent for up to two weeks after the catheter is first accessed. Less frequent maintenance will result in decreased longevity.

Contact Us

For specific surgery-related questions, please contact our technical experts at 1.877.CRIVER.1 (1.877.274.8371) or askcharlesriver@crl.com.