

10 Rules for Securing an Epidural Catheter

1. Prepare your tray by making room to arrange equipment on your sterile, impervious drape (never on the tray) and decanting local anesthetic unto your sterile tray (never in a non-sterile syringe off the field). Drop a Sorbaview® dressing onto your tray in sterile fashion.



2. Correctly place the epidural catheter.
3. **Do not pull back** the catheter at this time. **Do not attach** the Tuohy-Borst * adapter at this time either.

4. Apply tincture of benzoin directly to the catheter exit site, applying pressure with the swab stick until hemostasis is achieved. Apply more benzoin circumferentially 5cm around the site. Allow the benzoin to dry or carefully blot it dry.

5. Thread the Lock-it Plus® device onto the end of the catheter after removing the adhesive cover from the underside of the device. Place the Lock-it onto the skin making sure that the catheter exits straight through from the skin site without looping or folding under the device.

6. Pull back the catheter until 5cm remain deep to the surface of the clear plastic hub of the Lock-it. Snap the lid closed, feeling for a reassuring snug click of the device.

7. Attach the Tuohy-Borst adapter by fully inserting the catheter and locking it down very tightly. Pull smartly on the catheter to test the connection. Test dose the epidural using sterile technique, making sure the lock-down was not so tight as to prevent injection



through the catheter. After test dosing, draw up local from your tray using the 20cc sterile syringe provided. Use this local to flush through the filter and attach both.



8. Apply the Sorbaview dressing after removing and disposing of the superfluous winged dressing and patient label **prior to** attaching the dressing to the patient's skin. (Both these items have caused dislodgement of catheters.)



9. Secure the catheter around the Tuohy-Borst adapter using a snug figure of eight and a very short piece of thin pink tape. Apply the yellow 'epidural catheter' label directly to the catheter,



leaving no adhesive backing exposed on the label.

10. Apply a single piece of wide pink tape covering the catheter from the Sorbaview to the anterior surface of the patient's shoulder. Do not make the catheter taut under the tape. Resist the urge to box the Sorbaview with pink tape. Label your 20cc syringe and leave it



attached to the epidural catheter as if to suggest "How about dosing me later rather than starting Sufenta?"

11. Say to yourself: "That catheter is not going anywhere." (But not out loud please)