

Managing Cancer Pain: Male with Pancreatic Cancer

A 69-year-old male patient has pancreatic cancer and developed severe abdominal pain. He was treated with high dose oral opioids but was not achieving good pain relief and was experiencing side effects of constipation, mental clouding and somnolence. He was hospitalized for pain management.

The patient was transferred to Nura by his oncologist for interventional pain management.

1. At Nura, we first performed an alcohol ablation of the celiac plexus which resulted in good pain relief but only for a few weeks.
2. For the next step, we placed an epidural catheter for infusion of spinal opioid/local anesthetic solution. This intervention resulted in excellent pain relief and served as a trial for a fully implanted pain pump.
3. Insurance authorization was obtained for a pain pump implant. Payers are usually supportive of pain pumps in cancer pain and approval was quick.
4. Our cancer pain team (physician, APP, implant RN, implant coordinator, medical device company rep) educated the patient on pain pump technology and set up a direct communication link with the patient.
5. The implant surgery was performed in Nura's outpatient surgery center and took about 30 minutes.
6. The pump infusion was started in the PACU immediately after implant. We also administered a bolus dose of spinal medication in PACU which was well tolerated and relieved pain completely.
7. In the final step, we programmed pre-set bolus doses of medication into the pain pump system so that the patient could self-administer pump medication with a handheld remote-control device as needed to control pain at home.

The patient is now achieving good pain relief with minimal side effects and is much more awake and alert. Our cancer pain team is continuing to support him as an outpatient. He is very grateful to be out of the hospital and continues to work with his oncologist on tumor management.

If you have a patient struggling with chronic pain and you would like to discuss the case, please call our Provider Hotline at 763-537-1000.

Evaluation

Online:
nuraclinics.com/eval
Fax: 763.537.6666
Email:
referral@nuraclinics.com
Phone: 763-537-6000

Procedure Only

Online:
nuraclinics.com/procedure
Fax: 763.767.7193
Email:
dlpriorauth@nuraclinics.com
Phone: 763-537-6000

763-537-6000
nuraclinics.com

©2021 Nura PA. All rights reserved.

