

Insulin Pump Overview

What is an Insulin Pump?

A computerized handheld device that can be programmed to deliver insulin.

Advantages

- less shots
- improved control
- more flexible lifestyle

Drawbacks

- Dependency of a mechanical device
- Constant attachment to a device

Questions to Consider

- Will you be comfortable with visible signs of diabetes?
- Have you considered how an insulin pump will fit into your lifestyle (sports, swimming, social events, clothing)?
- For parents:
 - Is your child ready to handle more responsibility with their diabetes?
 - How will you stay involved in diabetes care?
 - What about supervision for school-age children?
- For older children: Who wants the pump more?
 - The one wearing the pump must be the one who wants it more.

Pump Terminology

- **Infusion Set:** consists of tubing and cannulas in various sizes. (Patch pumps eliminate the need for external tubing)
 - Infusion sets vary by:
 - Angle of insertion
 - Angled: less risk of accidental removal; less likely to pump against muscle in slender people
 - 90-degree: easy to insert; has a shorter cannula
 - Canula length
 - Plastic vs. Steel
 - Tubing Length
- **Reservoir/Cartridge:** plastic container that holds 2-3 days of insulin inside pump.
- **Basal Rate:** continuous 24-hr delivery of insulin to meet background insulin needs. Replaces use of long-acting insulin- you will not use long acting insulin on the pump! (Only rapid acting insulin is used in the pump)
- **Bolus:** insulin given for carbohydrates and for high blood sugar corrections.

