Portex® Epidural Tuohy Needles

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

These instructions are intended for use with the following Portex® products:
- 100/395/160 Tuohy Needle, Size 16G (O.D. 1.6mm, L.D. 1.15mm, length 80mm)
- 100/395/560 Tuohy Needle, Extra Long, Size 16G (O.D. 1.6mm, L.D. 1.15mm, length 110mm)
- 100/395/180 Tuohy Needle, Size 18G (O.D. 1.3mm, L.D. 1.00mm, length 80mm)
- 100/395/580 Tuohy Needle, Extra Long, Size 18G (O.D. 1.3mm, L.D. 1.00mm, length 110mm)

These instructions contain important information for safe use of the product. Read the entire contents of these Instructions For Use, including Warnings and Cautions, before using this product. Failure to properly follow warnings, cautions and instructions could result in death or serious injury to the patient and/or clinician.

NOTE: DISTRIBUTE THIS INSERT SHEET TO ALL PRODUCT LOCATIONS.

DESCRIPTION
A range of sterile, single use Tuohy needles for insertion into the epidural space for either single shot doses of local anaesthetic or other drugs or as an introducer for epidural catheters. The Tuohy needles comply with BS 6196, are graduated at 10mm intervals to enable the depth of needle insertion to be determined. The Tuohy needles are supplied with snap lock wings which allows the needle to be used as a winged or non-winged needle. The needle hub is colour coded for ease of identification.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE
1. If the Tuohy needle is being used to introduce an epidural catheter, check the catheter will pass through the needle.
2. Attach snap lock wings (if required) ensuring the orientation lugs on the wings and needle hub are aligned.
3. Perform aseptic preparation of the skin.
4. Infiltrate local anaesthetic into the skin, subcutaneous and deeper tissues.
5. Identify the epidural space in accordance with currently accepted medical techniques.
6. Inject drugs of choice, remove needle and cover puncture site with suitable dressing.

PRECAUTIONS
1. If blood or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) is observed during the placement of the Tuohy needle in the epidural space, the needle has been placed incorrectly. Stop immediately and proceed in accordance with currently accepted medical techniques.
2. It is recommended that a filter be used when injecting drugs into the epidural space by either Tuohy needle or epidural catheter to prevent particles or organisms being injected into the epidural space.

WARNINGS
Never pull back the catheter through the epidural Tuohy needle as this can result in the catheter being cut and left in the epidural space. If catheter insertion difficulties are encountered, the epidural Tuohy needle and catheter should be removed carefully together as a single unit, and the procedure repeated.

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