

What is an ITB Pump?

An intrathecal baclofen (ITB) pump is a device that's surgically implanted to deliver baclofen medication directly into spinal fluid.

ITB therapy helps reduce spasticity by allowing muscles to relax—it's a treatment to relieve spasms, reduce abnormal movements and improve motor function. ITB therapy might help your child by:

- Increasing comfort.
- Reducing pain.
- Making it easier to change positions.
- Making it more comfortable to wear braces.
- Making it easier to manage self-care activities, such as getting dressed and grooming.

Because baclofen is administered directly into the spinal fluid (this is also known as intrathecally), your child will need a smaller dose than if they took the oral form of the medication. Using smaller doses lowers the risk of side effects, such as drowsiness.



Who Benefits From ITB Therapy?

Muscle spasticity is a common effect of cerebral palsy, acquired brain injuries [complex movement disorders](#) and [spinal cord injuries](#). If your child has widespread spasticity, or has therapy goals to improve their daily function, they might be a good candidate for ITB therapy.

ITB therapy can reduce spasticity and might reduce dystonia (a type of movement disorder), but it doesn't affect other problems associated with cerebral palsy. If your child has spasticity, they might still require orthopedic surgery, such as a [single-event multilevel surgery \(SEMLS\)](#), to correct muscle contractures or bony deformities.

At Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, your child's growth, challenges and expected outcomes will be assessed

by specialists who are trained to work with kids. If your child is identified as a good candidate, we'll work with your family to plan a convenient time to implant the ITB pump.

Gillette was one of 12 U.S. medical facilities testing the ITB pump's safety and effectiveness when the FDA approved the device in 1996. Since then, we've developed one of the nation's largest ITB pump programs, serving more than 500 patients whose widespread spasticity (tightness or stiffness) remained a problem despite nonsurgical treatments.

[Make An Appointment](#) [651-290-8707](#)

This information is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care providers. If you have any questions, talk with your doctor or others on your health care team.

If you are a Gillette patient with urgent questions or concerns, please contact Telehealth Nursing at [651-229-3890](#).