

## Management of impaired leg movement & High Bromage score with Epidural Analgesia

- All patients receiving epidural analgesia must have leg strength/motor function assessed a minimum of 4 hourly (or as guided by the score) using the Bromage scoring system.
- An increasing degree of leg weakness usually implies excessive epidural drug administration. However, it can indicate very serious complications including dural penetration of the catheter, or the development of an epidural haematoma or abscess. If not diagnosed and treated promptly, this will lead to paraplegia. Cord compression as a result of haematoma or abscess is a neurosurgical emergency.
- N.B Some patients may have pre-existing motor impairment pre-operatively e.g. patient's with cerebral palsy. A pre-operative baseline motor function assessment should be documented and then observed post-op for changes in comparison with their baseline and in discussion with parents/carers.

