

Medtronic warns of battery problem with drug pumps

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(AP) -- Medical device maker Medtronic is warning patients about a rare problem with its SynchroMed drug pumps that can cause them to lose battery power and fail.

The company says it has received 55 reports in which a film formed on the pump's battery, sometimes causing a loss of power.

The pump is primarily used to treat [severe pain](#) and muscle spasticity. In some spasticity patients, the abrupt loss of pump therapy can cause serious injury and death.

[Medtronic](#) is not recalling the products and does not recommend their removal, unless they are proven to be failing.

The company said in a statement that all the reported problems involved batteries manufactured before March 2005. The company is working with U.S. regulators on a new battery design to prevent the problem.

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