

Caring For Your Femoral Haemodialysis Catheter

This leaflet tells you about caring for your femoral haemodialysis catheter. It explains what is involved. It is not meant to replace discussion between you and your doctor, but as a guide to be used in connection to what is discussed with your doctor.

Introduction

This leaflet provides information and simple instructions on how you can help us care for your femoral haemodialysis catheter.

Why do I need a femoral line?

The doctors have placed a dialysis catheter into your femoral vein. This is a large vein in your groin. This is to allow you to have haemodialysis. You will need to stay in hospital whilst the line is in your groin and will be checked by the nursing staff 3 times a day to ensure it is its position and cleanliness

Why is it important to look after my catheter?

It is important for you to look after your catheter by following the care instructions as this will reduce the risk of your catheter becoming infected or blocked.

We aim to keep the catheter in for a maximum of 7 days, however occasionally it may be kept in longer if a clinical need is identified, this decision would be made by a renal consultant.

What can I do?

- Do not walk around the ward as this may cause the catheter to kink and not work.
- If you need the toilet or bathroom the nursing staff will assist you in a wheelchair.
- Do not let any staff routinely use your femoral catheter for any purpose except dialysis.
- Do not get your dressing or catheter wet.
- In exceptional cases your catheter may be used to obtain blood or give medications.
- Keep the gauze cover over the catheter bungs and plastic tubing.
- Never remove the bungs from the end of the catheter as this may lead to bleeding from the catheter or allow air to be sucked in.
- Do not pull or tug your catheter.
- If you experience any soreness or oozing from your catheter exit site you must inform a nurse on your ward or the dialysis unit as this may be a sign of infection.

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- Keep the protective dressing on at all times. If the dressing comes off you must inform the nurses on the dialysis unit or ward staff. The catheter will then be cleaned and another dressing applied. Please do not remove or change the dressing yourself.
- Please remind anyone who uses your femoral haemodialysis catheter to clean their hands and put a pair of sterile gloves before handling it. Staff will not mind being reminded of the importance of hand washing.

What are the signs of infection?

The following signs may indicate an infection:

- Feeling hot and having a temperature above normal.
- Feeling shivery or generally unwell.
- Redness, swelling or oozing around the catheter exit site.
- Pain or discomfort.

If you experience any of these please tell the dialysis nurses or the nurses on your ward.

When will the dressing be changed?

To reduce the risk of infection, the femoral catheter exit site and catheter tubing needs to be kept clean and dry.

The clear plastic dressing on the catheter exit site can remain in place for 7 days. However the dressing will need to be replaced more frequently if it has become loose, wet, dirty or dislodged.

What if....?

The femoral haemodialysis catheter falls out?

Lie down and apply pressure over the catheter exit site. Call for help from the nursing staff, Stay calm by applying pressure the bleeding should stop within 5-10 minutes.

I am allergic to the plastic dressing?

If your skin around the plastic dressing becomes, sore, itchy and red please let the nurse looking after you know. An alternative dressing is available, but it will need to be changed at the beginning of every dialysis session.

How is the line removed?

The line will be removed on the ward or renal unit. The stitches are removed and the line pulled out. Some pressure will be applied to your groin to stop any bleeding; the pressure will be applied for approximately 10-15 minutes.

Our commitment to confidentiality

We keep personal and clinical information about you to ensure you receive appropriate care and treatment. Everyone working in the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential.

We will share information with other parts of the NHS to support your healthcare needs, and we will inform your GP of your progress unless you ask us not to. If we need to share

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information that identifies you with other organisations we will ask for your consent. You can help us by pointing out any information in your records which is wrong or needs updating.

Additional Sources of Information:

Go online and view NHS Choices website for more information about a wide range of health topics <http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

You may want to visit one of our Health Information Centres located in:

- Main Entrance at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital Tel: 0121 424 2280
 - Treatment Centre at Good Hope Hospital Tel: 0121 424 9946
 - Clinic Entrance Solihull Hospital Tel: 0121 424 5616
- or contact us by email: healthinfo.centre@heartofengland.nhs.uk.

Dear Patient

We welcome your views on what you thought of this patient information leaflet, also any suggestions on how you feel we can improve through our feedback link below:

- Patient Information Feedback email: patientinformationleafletfeedback@heartofengland.nhs.uk

If you wish to make any other comments this can be done through the links listed below:

- Patient Opinion: www.patientopinion.org.uk
- I want great care: www.iwantgreatcare.org (Here you can leave feedback about your doctor)

Be helpful and respectful: think about what people might want to know about our patient information and this hospital and how your experiences might benefit others. Remember your words must be polite and respectful, and you cannot name individuals on the sites.

If you have any questions you may want to ask about your condition or your treatment or if there is anything you do not understand and you wish to know more about please write them down and your doctor will be more than happy to try and answer them for you.