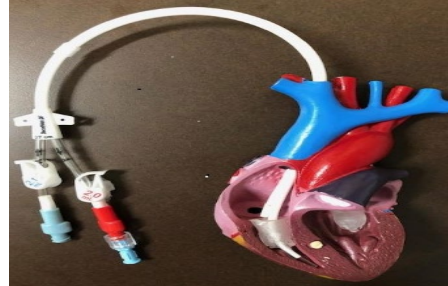


HEMODIALYSIS CATHETER PATIENT EDUCATION

A catheter is only intended for short-term emergency use until you have a fistula or graft created and ready to use. It can be used as soon as it is placed. The catheter is inserted in the chest or groin. The tip of the catheter sits in the top chamber of your heart and the other end exits from your skin.



CATHETER COMPLICATIONS

1. A clot or a fibrin sheath can impede the catheter function.
2. Infection and sepsis.
3. Stenosis (narrowing) or clot in central veins.



THE CUFF

The cuff is attached to the catheter underneath the skin:

1. Enables tissue growth intending to hold the catheter in place.
2. Creates an infection barrier.

Dialysis should **NEVER** be performed if the cuff is visible outside of the skin. The catheter is then considered contaminated and should **NOT** be pushed back into the body. The catheter will need a replacement **BEFORE** dialysis can be performed in order to ensure the catheter tip is in the correct position.



GUIDELINES

- Keep a clean, dry, and intact dressing over the exit site of the catheter.
- DO NOT get your catheter wet (no showering, swimming, bathing). We recommend sponge baths.
- Notify your care team if the area becomes red, painful or has drainage.
- The catheter clamps must remain closed when not hooked up for dialysis.
- If your catheter is hanging lower than normal inform your care team immediately.
- Keep catheter secured to body with tape to avoid snagging on clothing.
- Report neck, face, and arm swelling and new visible veins on catheter side location to dialysis unit.

HEMODIALYSIS CATHETER HOME CARE PATIENT EDUCATION

Your catheter can be used immediately for hemodialysis, administration of medications, etc. It's uncertain how long you will have your catheter so it's important you know how to care for it.

CARE

- The catheter area may be sore for a few days and you may take over the counter Tylenol as directed.
- The dressing will be changed at your dialysis center with each treatment.
- Do not wear necklaces or clothing that can get caught on the catheter.
- Sutures will need to be removed. You will be given a date to have your dialysis center remove them.
- Prolonged adhesive tapes may irritate skin. Refrain from scratching the area and instead have your dialysis unit clean the skin at dressing change.
- Do not use sharp items near your catheter.

ACTIVITIES AND MEDICATIONS

- Avoid any activities that may dislodge the catheter.
- Talk to your doctor about the activities you normally do.
- Talk to your doctor regarding when to resume any medications.
- If you need further pain medications, ask your doctor.
- Avoid moisture to the dressing – it encourages bacteria growth.

COMPLICATIONS

- Call your doctor if you have a fever, signs of infection like redness, swelling or increased pain, blood or pus draining from area.
- Call 911 if you experience severe breathing problems, uncontrolled bleeding, or any other life threatening issues.
- If the catheter falls out, call your dialysis unit so they can schedule you an appointment at the access center to get a new catheter replacement.