Midline Catheter

It has been recommended that you have a midline catheter inserted as part of the care you are receiving. The practitioner inserting it will explain the procedure and any potential problems. This leaflet aims to provide supporting information regarding the insertion and care of your midline.

Please read this information carefully and keep it in a safe place

**What is a midline catheter?**

A midline catheter is a thin, flexible, hollow tube which can be described as a long cannula. It allows the nurse to administer medication or fluids into a vein.

**How long will the midline be in place?**

A midline catheter usually stays in for the duration of your intravenous therapy treatment.

**Why do I need a midline inserting?**

Reasons for midline insertions vary and depend upon your medical condition and proposed medical treatment. Also for patients who are difficult to insert a cannula or the intravenous therapy is likely to continue for more than a week.

**How is the midline inserted?**

A specially trained Nurse or Doctor will insert the midline catheter. These catheters generally enter your body at the crease of your elbow. The person inserting the catheter will prepare

sterile equipment, wear sterile gloves and clean your skin with an antiseptic. The procedure is not classed as an operation, the midline is inserted through a needle and the skin is not cut. The midline is fixed in place with special strips and a water resistant dressing.

**Are there any risks?**

This is usually a safe procedure but it does carry some risks, these are similar to those that may occur with an ordinary cannula.

**Failure to insert:** On rare occasions the midline may be difficult to insert, this may be due to repeated attempts or failure to place the midline into the vein. If the procedure proves too difficult we will advise on an alternative course of action.

**Bruising or bleeding:** As the insertion involves inserting a needle into a vein, some bruising or bleeding may occur, which can be affected by medication or medical conditions. Please inform the nurse if you are taking Aspirin or Warfarin which may affect post insertion bleeding or bruising.

**Dislodged Midline:** Check at least daily how much of the midline catheter is visible on your arm – if this changes, please inform your Community Nurse immediately.

**Blood Clot:** On rare occasionsa blood clot can collect around the midline which would require medical treatment. If the vein with the midline becomes red or painful please inform the nurses immediately.

**Blocked midline:** Sometimes the midline may block which will prevent it being used. If it is not able to be unblocked it will need to be removed and a new midline inserted.

**Infection:** The midline is a direct route into the body and sometimes may become infected. This may require medical treatment and removal of the midline.

**If you develop chills/fever inform the nurse/doctor immediately.**

**Care of the midline:**

 Your catheter will need care to ensure that it is kept clean and working well. This will include changing of the dressing, flushing the catheter with fluid and changing the bung. This will be done by the nurse who is administering your medication.

**Can I bathe/shower?**

With a water resistant dressing in place, you can bathe or shower. We ask that you try not to soak the dressing. If the dressing is loose after your bath/shower, it will need to be replaced

and you will have to contact the nurse.

Waterproof products are available to protect the midline whilst showering. If you would like to know more about this, please speak to your doctor or nurse.

**What if my midline catheter falls out?**

If the midline catheter has only partly fallen out, fix it in place with some tape and contact your nurse immediately. If the midline catheter has completely fallen out then press on the hole in your skin for a few minutes. Then apply a small sterile dressing. If it continues to bleed, apply pressure for a further three minutes. Inform your nurse and keep the midline catheter for him/her to inspect.

**When and how will my midline catheter be removed?**

Midline catheters are usually removed at the end of your treatment. Rarely, they are removed because of problems.

Your midline catheter can be removed in the place that you normally receive your treatment. This could be the ward, outpatients or at home.

Your nurse will remove the midline catheter. The dressing will be removed and the catheter will be taken out easily, usually with no or little discomfort. Then a small dressing will be applied that you will be able to remove in 24 hours.

**To contact a Community Nurse please call the appropriate number below:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Birmingham Patients** | **Solihull Patients** | **South Staffordshire Patients** |
| **0300 555 1919 Option 2****(24 hours)** | **0121 717 4333****(24 hours)** | **01827 263884****(24 hours)** |

**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 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 or contact us by email: healthinfo.centre@heartofengland.nhs.uk.

Dear Patient

We welcome your views on what you liked and suggestions for how things could be improved at this hospital. If you would like to tell us and others about your experience please make your comments through one of the following sites:

* NHS Choice:-           [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)
* Patient Opinion:-      [www.patientopinion.org.uk](http://www.patientopinion.org.uk)
* I want great care:-    [www.iwantgreatcare.org](http://www.iwantgreatcare.org) (Here you can leave feedback about your doctor)

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

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

