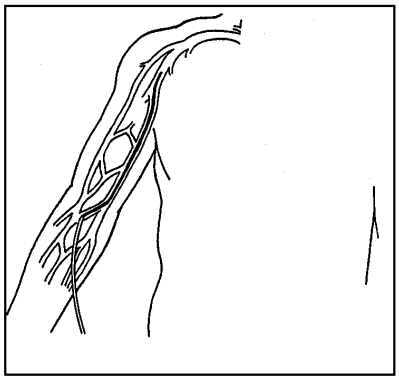
vitalcare INFUSION SERVICES

Your Midline Catheter for Home IV Therapy

Introduction

Your prescriber has recommended intravenous (IV) medications as a part of your treatment.



- To give you these intravenous medications (also called infusions), your prescriber has ordered the insertion of a device called a midline intravenous catheter. A midline catheter is a thin tube made of a very soft and flexible material. It can be different sizes but usually it is about six (6) inches long.
- The midline catheter is put into a vein in your arm (possibly the same place where you have blood drawn at your prescriber's office). Once it has been inserted, it can stay in place for up to 30 days if it is handled properly.
- Your midline intravenous catheter should be cared for so that infection or damage can be avoided. Please read the following information and ask your home care nurse or pharmacist if you have any questions about your IV catheter.

Important Points About Your Midline Catheter

- Your catheter will be inserted by a specially educated nurse, or by a physician, with experience in placing these devices. They will use standard infection control procedures to prevent any infection.
- Your catheter can stay in place up to 30 days. If therapy continues after that time, the catheter may need to be changed. Specific instructions for the routine replacement of your catheter will be obtained from your prescriber.
- Your catheter must be handled correctly during your therapy to prevent infection or irritations. The catheter cannot fall out but can be accidentally pulled out if it is not secured properly or if it is mishandled.
- Medication is inserted through the catheter by attaching the IV tubing to the needleless connector on the end of the catheter. You will be taught by your home care nurse to do this properly, or someone will be doing this for you.

- If treated correctly with saline and heparin "flushing" medications, your catheter should not become clotted or clogged. Let your home care nurse or pharmacist know immediately if the catheter is not working properly.
- You can use your arm for daily activities. However, avoid any heavy or physically challenging activities that causes the catheter to move. It is important that the dressing on your catheter remain dry and intact during all activities, and that the catheter be held securely in place with sterile tape and/or a securement device to prevent accidental removal.

Signs or Symptoms to Report to Your Nurse or Pharmacist

- Pain or tenderness around your catheter
- Pain or tenderness when your infusion begins
- Puffiness or swelling around your catheter or anywhere on your arm
- Redness or drainage around your catheter
- Fever
- If unable to flush catheter, "sluggish" or slow infusion, and unable to draw back blood from the catheter.
- Bleeding
- Leaking of medication from the catheter site.

Notes

1. Frequent hand washing helps to prevent infections.
2. Avoid movement of the catheter at any time.
3. Always clean the needle-free access device with an alcohol pad before attaching the IV administration tubing for a minimum of 15 seconds.
4. Avoid getting the catheter or dressing wet.
5. Avoid tub baths.