

Midline catheter insertion

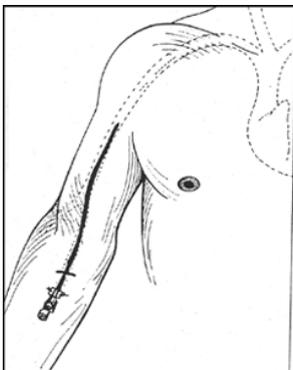
Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at ndht.pals@nhs.net.

Introduction

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

What is a midline catheter?



A midline catheter is a thin, flexible, hollow tube. Midline catheters can be used for antibiotics, blood products, intravenous fluids or to give other medications. The catheter is threaded through the vein in your upper arm and the end of the catheter is secured to your arm (see diagram). The catheter can be used while you are in hospital or at home. How the catheter is used will depend on your medical condition and your proposed treatment. This will be discussed with you prior to its insertion.

How is the midline catheter inserted?

The procedure will be explained to you, and you will be asked for your verbal consent to proceed.

A specially trained nurse or doctor will insert your midline catheter.

The clinician inserting your catheter will take great care to ensure it is a very clean procedure. They will prepare sterile equipment, wear sterile gloves and clean your skin with an antiseptic wipe.

The midline catheter is inserted through a needle; the skin is not cut.

Once the midline catheter is inserted, the needle is removed and the catheter is fixed in place with a waterproof dressing.

What happens after the midline catheter is inserted?

Once the catheter has been fixed in place, you will begin to receive your medication through it.

Are there any risks to this procedure?

The insertion of the midline catheter is usually a safe procedure but it does carry some risks. These risks are similar to those that may occur with an ordinary cannula:

Failure to insert: On rare occasions it may be difficult to insert the catheter. This may result in multiple attempts or failure to place the catheter in your vein. The clinician will inform you of any alternative methods if they cannot insert the midline catheter.

Bleeding and bruising: Some bleeding or bruising may occur. The amount of bleeding or bruising may be affected by the medications you are taking or your medical condition. It is important that you inform the clinician if you are taking any medication such as aspirin that may affect bleeding.

Dislodged catheter: Check at least daily how much of the midline catheter is visible on your arm. Please inform your nurse/doctor immediately if the amount of the midline visible on your arm changes.

Blood clot: On rare occasions, a blood clot can collect around the catheter. This would normally result in additional medical treatment.

If your arm with the midline catheter becomes swollen, please inform your nurse/doctor immediately.

Infection: The midline catheter is a direct route into your body and sometimes the catheter may become infected. This may result in additional medical treatment and removal of the catheter.

If you have a fever/chills, please inform your nurse/doctor immediately.

Blocked catheter: Sometimes your catheter may block; this will prevent the catheter from being used. Your nurse may be able to unblock it, but if it cannot be unblocked the catheter may have to be removed.

Inflammation of the vein (phlebitis): Some patients may experience pain and/or redness along the vein in which the catheter sits. This may result in removal of the catheter. It is important to inform the nurse/doctor immediately.

Care of your midline catheter

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 needle-free bung. This will be done by the nurse who is administering your medication.

Can I bathe/shower?

With a waterproof 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.

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.

Further information

If you have any concerns or need advice you can contact one of the nurses below:

District/Community Nurse

Clinical Team

(Only between the hours of 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday)

Outside these hours, contact NHS 111.

References (Acknowledgements)

Jackson A. Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust Midline Catheter Information for Patients

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

‘Care Opinion’ comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

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