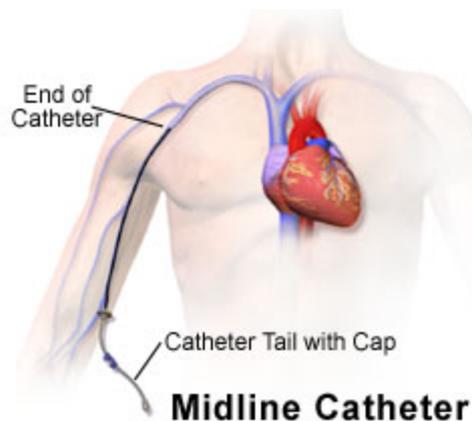


CHANGING LIVES

What is a Midline Catheter?

A midline catheter is a thin, flexible hollow tube (described as a catheter) they can be simply described as a long cannula. One end of the catheter is fixed to your arm above the elbow and allows the Doctor or nurse to administer medications etc. into your veins



MIDLINE CATHETER

Introduction

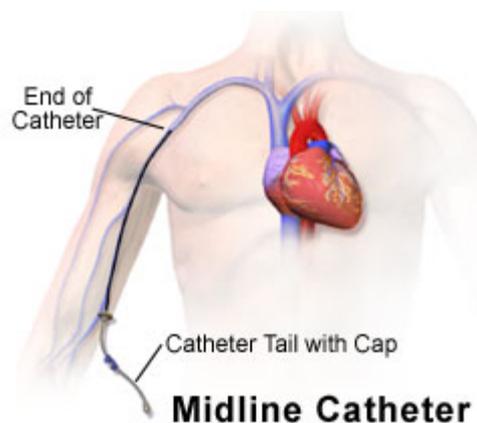
It has been recommended that you have a midline catheter inserted as part of the care you are receiving. The practitioner inserting this device will usually explain the procedure and any potential problems to you.. This leaflet aims to provide supporting information about the procedure and about the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

Additional information can be given by your doctor or nurse.

We advise you to make sure you are aware of the contents of this leaflet. If you have any worries or require further information, please contact a member of the team on 01226 431475. Thank you.

What is a Midline Catheter?

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How long will the midline stay in place?

Midlines can stay in place for approximately twelve weeks if required. However, some patients do require replacement catheters.

Why do I need a midline inserting?

It has been suggested that you have a midline inserted because we are finding it difficult to insert a cannula or that your intravenous therapy is likely to continue for more than one week. Reasons for catheter insertion will vary and will depend upon your medical condition and your proposed treatment.

What parts of my body are used to insert the midline?

The catheter generally enter just above the crease of your elbow. Your practitioner will advise on right or left sided placement.

How do I prepare for the midline insertion procedure?

As a patient you need to do very little to prepare before the insertion of the midline catheter.

How is the midline catheter inserted?

The insertion of the midline catheter is not an operation, but the person inserting the catheter will treat it as a very clean procedure. They will prepare sterile equipment, wear sterile gloves and clean your skin with an antiseptic

The midline catheter is inserted through a needle: the skin is not cut. Once the midline catheter is inserted it is fixed in place with a special dressing.

What happens after the midline is inserted?

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

Are there any risks?

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.

Bruising or bleeding: As with any procedure that involves the insertion of a needle into a vein, some bruising or bleeding can occur. The amount of bruising or bleeding may be affected by your medical condition or the medication you are taking. Please inform us 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. If the amount of the midline catheter visible on your arm changed please inform us immediately.

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 becomes swollen, please inform us.

Infection The 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 or chills please inform us immediately

Blocked catheter: Sometime the catheter may block. This will prevent the catheter from being used. We may be able to unblock it, but if it cannot be unblocked, it may need to be removed. If you are receiving drugs via a drip please inform the staff immediately when the bag/bottle is empty, so they can disconnect it and flush your catheter.

Inflammation of vein (phlebitis) Some patients experience pain and redness along the length of the vein in which the midline catheter sits. This may result in removal of the catheter. If the vein with the midline catheter in it becomes red or painful please inform us immediately.

How will my catheter be used?

Your catheter will be used to deliver medication, fluid etc. The staff using the catheter will use a very clean technique which involves hand washing, wearing gloves and using antiseptic to clean the access ports before they are used.

Flushing is very important. Times when your catheter is flushed will vary but it must be flushed after medication is given into your catheter. If bags of fluid or drugs are connected to your catheter they must never be allowed to stand empty. The line must be flushed or bag changed immediately.

The dressings and access ports are usually changed on a weekly basis, unless they are loose or dirty, when they should be changed immediately.

A blood pressure cuff must not be used on the upper part of the arm where your catheter is placed.

When and how will my midline catheter be removed?

Catheters are usually removed at the end of your treatment. Rarely, they are removed because of problems. Your midline can be removed in the place you normally receive treatment. This could be ward, clinic, outpatients or home. The dressing will be removed and the catheter removed with ease, usually with no discomfort. Our nurse or practitioner will remove your catheter and a small dressing applied that can be removed after 48 hrs

Frequently asked Questions

Will I have to sign anything? The procedure will be explained to you, but you will not usually have to sign a consent form.

Can I bath/shower? You can bath and shower with a waterproof dressing in place. We ask that you try not to soak the dressing. We recommend cling film as a precaution on top of your dressing! A waterproof sleeve may be purchased, advice given upon request. If the dressing is loose after your bath/shower, it will need to be replaced.

What if my midline catheter falls out? If the catheter has only part fallen out, fix it in place with some tape and contact your nurse immediately. If the catheter has completely come 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 3 minutes. Inform your nurse and keep the catheter for him/her to inspect.

Any problem please contact

The Vascular Access Team

01226 431475

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