

MCRG Interventional Radiology Patient Discharge Education Perm Cath Information

You have a catheter placed for hemodialysis access. With proper care, this catheter should provide dialysis access for a long time. The purpose of this information is to help you take care of your catheter and to recognize problems early.

Dressing Changes:

1. At the time of the procedure, absorbable sutures were placed in your skin at your neck and covered with a medical skin glue. Let this glue fall off on its own. **DO NOT** pull the glue off.
2. Non-absorbable sutures were placed through the holes in the wings of the catheter to hold the catheter in place while the site heals. There is no need to be concerned if the sutures come loose or pull free from the skin after 2 weeks.
3. Your catheter is covered with a sterile dressing. This should be changed by the staff at your dialysis center. Dressings are usually changed once a week.
4. If the dressing becomes wet or dirty, wash hands well and change it at home.

Catheter Care:

Infection is the most common issue for needing a catheter to be replaced. To help keep your catheter from getting infected, it is important to follow a few steps:

1. Keep the catheter and dressing clean and dry. Before bathing or showering, cover the dressing with plastic wrap and tape it around the edges to keep the catheter dry. After bathing, pat the dressing dry, do not rub.
2. Wash hands well with soap and water before handling the catheter or changing the dressing.
3. Minimize handling of the catheter.
4. Dialysis catheters should be used for dialysis only.

Catching Problems Early:

1. **Bleeding:**
Some patients may develop bleeding in the first 24 hours after catheter placement. This usually occurs during or after dialysis when you are given blood thinners. Usually this can be treated by using a special type of dressing to hold pressure over your incision. Occasionally, more serious bleeding will occur. Because of this, you should always contact your doctor or interventional radiology to have your catheter checked.
2. **Catheter pulls out:**
Occasionally, a patient's catheter will be pulled out or will fall out. If this happens, or if the catheter has backed out partially or you can see the catheter cuff, you should contact your doctor.
3. **Infection:**
The nurses in your dialysis unit will check your catheter for signs infection each time you dialyze. These signs include redness, tenderness, swelling, or discharge

around the catheter. Prompt treatment of infection decreases the chance that the catheter will need to be removed. If you notice any of these signs, or if you develop fever or chills, let your physician know immediately.

Interventional Radiology Contact Information

Office Hours 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Non-emergent questions:

Phone: (407) 649-6823 Fax: (407) 246-0374

Email: IRSupport@MCRG.com – *non urgent concerns only*

IR Clinic Scheduling:

Phone: (321) 841-8104 Fax: (407) 649-7873

Email: IRSupport@MCRG.com – *non urgent appointment requests only*

For all Urgent issues:

On nights and weekends for immediate concerns you may

Page the Interventional Radiologist at:

(321) 841-8122

Or call your Doctor.