

Care at home

Return to your normal daily activities and regular dialysis treatments.

Do not do any strenuous activities such as heavy lifting while the dialysis catheter is in place.

Take tub baths only (no showers). You can get wet up to your mid-chest or nipple line.

Keep the bandage dry and clean.

Leave the bandage in place until you are told you can take it off.

If needed, take plain acetaminophen (Tylenol) for pain.

When to get help?

If your dialysis catheter comes out:

- Lie down flat.
- Put pressure on the spot.
- Call 9-1-1.

Call your doctor if you have:

- Fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, chills
- Bleeding from the dialysis catheter site that does not stop
- Pain or redness at or around the dialysis catheter site

Go to the nearest Emergency Department if you have any of the following:

- Sudden onset of shortness of breath
- Chest pain

Locations

Abbotsford-Regional Hospital 604-851-4866
Medical Imaging 2nd Floor, Fraser Wing
32900 Marshall Road, Abbotsford

Burnaby Hospital 604-434-4211
Medical Imaging, 3rd Floor
3935 Kincaid Street, Burnaby

Lions Gate Hospital 604-984-5775
Medical Imaging, Lower Level
231 East 15th Street, North Vancouver

Richmond Hospital 604-278-9711
Medical Imaging, Main Floor
7000 Westminster Hwy, Richmond

Royal Columbian Hospital 604-520-4640
Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower
330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster

St. Paul's Hospital 604-806-8006
Medical Imaging, 2nd Floor, Providence Building
1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver

Surrey Memorial Hospital 604-588-3308
Medical Imaging, 1st Floor, Lower Level
13750 96th Avenue, Surrey

UBC Hospital 604-822-7076
Medical Imaging, Main Floor
2211 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver

Vancouver General Hospital 604-875-4111
GI/GU Department, Jim Pattison Pavilion Ext 68612
Station 5, Ground Floor
855 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver

HealthLinkBC 8-1-1

Call any time you have any questions or concerns. HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours.

Available in 130 languages. For an interpreter, say your language in English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.

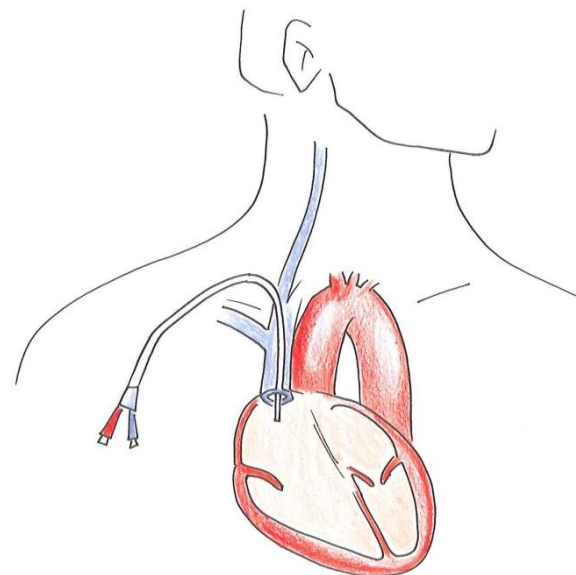
www.fraserhealth.ca – www.vch.ca

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

August 2022 FH Catalogue # 264610
VCH Catalogue # FA.200.T86



Tunnelled Hemodialysis Catheter



Follow-up Instructions/Appointment:

What is a Tunnelled Hemodialysis Catheter?

This is a special intravenous catheter placed under the skin (tunneled) into a larger vein in the neck or upper chest. The catheter is sometimes called a Permcath™.

Typically, this is used for people who need regular blood transfusions or who have chronic renal failure and need hemodialysis. The dialysis catheter has two openings called ports. The ports allow for the rapid exchange of blood needed for hemodialysis.

The dialysis catheter stays in place for as long as is needed (for months in some situations).

Who does the Tunnelled Hemodialysis Catheter?

It is done by a radiologist (a doctor who specializes in image guided procedures).

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, they can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for reasons of safety and regulations, they cannot be in the room during the procedure. We will tell you where family members can wait.

You must arrange for a 'responsible adult' to drive or accompany you home after this procedure.

What happens before the procedure?

Our Medical Imaging Department contacts you with specific instructions on how to prepare for this procedure.

How long will it take?

It takes about 45 minutes to 1 hour for the procedure and up to 4 hours to recover. Plan to be at the hospital for at least 4 to 5 hours.

What happens during the procedure?

- We start an intravenous in one of your arms so we can give pain and other medicines you might need during the procedure.
- We clean your neck and chest, then we cover them with sterile drapes.
- The radiologist injects numbing medicine to 'freeze' the area where the dialysis catheter enters the skin.
- The radiologist makes a small cut in the skin. The dialysis catheter is then guided into the vein using ultrasound and fluoroscopy.
- Once in place, the dialysis catheter is secured in place, usually with two or three stitches.
- We place a bandage over the site where the dialysis catheter enters the skin.

Does it hurt?

It might sting or burn as the numbing medicine is injected. You might feel some pressure as the dialysis catheter is put in place. Tell us if you are having pain so we can give you pain medicine.

Are there any risks or complications?

Any time the skin is pierced or cut, there is a chance of infection. Another possible complication is bleeding from the site.

What happens afterwards?

We move you to our recovery area where you are looked after by a nurse. During this time, the nurse checks your blood pressure, heart rate, breathing, and the dialysis catheter site.

Your stitches need to be removed in 7 to 10 days. Who takes out the stitches and changes the bandage varies with the health of person, where the person lives, and where the procedure was done.

Bandage changes and removal of stitches might be done by:

- ☐ A Home Care nurse who arranges to come to your home
- ☐ Your doctor in the office
- ☐ Your dialysis clinic nurse