

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Can I eat and drink before having my catheter inserted?

It is advisable to have a light meal before coming for the procedure.

Will I need to stay in hospital after my catheter has been inserted?

No, as the procedure is done under local anaesthesia only.

Can I bathe and swim?

You are encouraged to bathe and shower as usual. However, care must be taken to prevent the catheter dressing from getting wet.

Swimming is discouraged as submerging your catheter in water will increase the risk of infection.

Can I play sports?

Sports like tennis, golf or vigorous gym exercises are discouraged. There is a risk that your catheter could dislodge because of excessive movements.

Can I go on holiday?

Please talk to your doctor before planning a trip abroad. Generally, it is possible to holiday at home or aboard with a catheter.

How will I know if something is wrong with my Central Venous Catheter?

Complications may arise with your catheter.

Contact your doctor or nurse if any of the following signs and symptoms occur:

- Redness, swelling, pain, pus or tenderness around catheter site
- Rashes or blisters
- Discharges / Bleeding / Leakage from catheter exit site
- Loose or broken stitches
- Fever, chills and sweating (signs of infection)
- Leakage or cracks on the catheter.

Contact Us

Contact the Vascular Access Nurse for further enquires during operational hours.

Telephone : 8218 1516

Monday to Friday : 8.00am to 5.00pm

Saturday : 8.00am to 12.00pm

Sunday / Public Holiday : Closed

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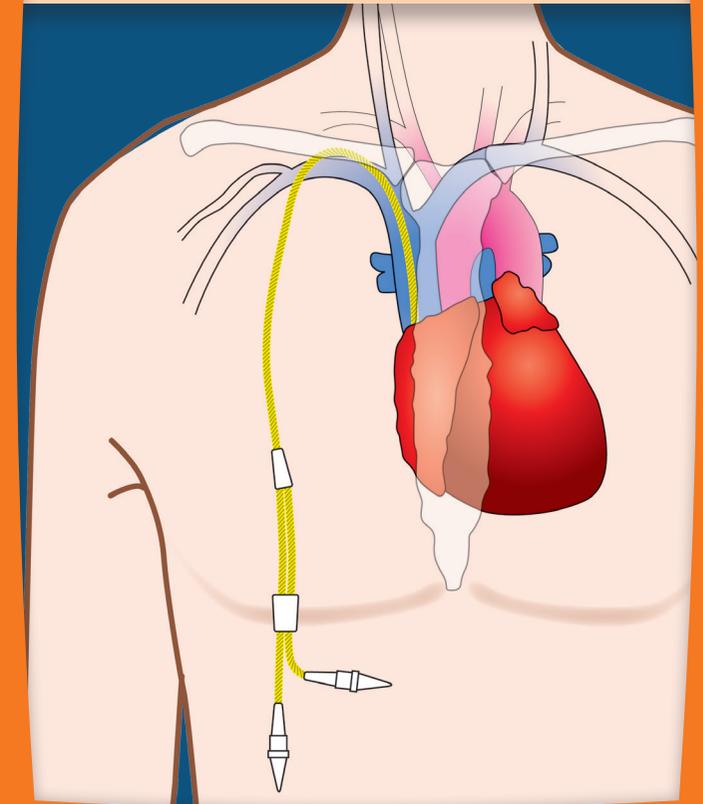
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GUIDE TO CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER



What is a Central Venous Catheter (CVC)?

A central venous catheter, commonly called Central or Hickman Line is a long, flexible hollow tube with an opening at one end called a lumen.

Why a Central Venous Catheter is needed?

Your doctor may have suggested the insertion of a Central Venous Catheter for the administration of one of the following:

- a) Chemotherapy agents
- b) Long term antibiotics
- c) Blood & blood products
- d) Parenteral nutrition.

How is the Central Venous Catheter inserted?

The procedure is done under local anaesthesia. The site chosen will either be on the right or left side of your chest.

A small opening is made on the skin near the collar bone which the catheter will be inserted. Stitches will be placed to secure the catheter on the chest.

A chest X-ray will be done to verify the placement of the catheter after insertion.

What are the risks associated with having a Central Venous Catheter?

As with most surgical procedures, there are risks such as bleeding or infection. Other risks associated with a central line placement include:

- a) Tip of the catheter is not in the best position
- b) Accidental puncture of lungs
- c) Accidental puncture of the artery which may cause bleeding.

How to care for your Central Venous Catheter?

You and your family members will be responsible for the care of the catheter at home, which includes:

- Weekly dressing (cleaning the exit site and applying a new dressing)
- Weekly flushing (to prevent blockage when catheter is not in use).

How is the Central Venous Catheter removed when it is no longer needed?

After the completion of your treatment, your doctor will assess and review your need for the catheter. If the catheter is no longer needed, it will be removed either by a trained nurse or a doctor.

