

Patient Information

Introduction:

Your doctor has requested that a Midline catheter be inserted for your medical treatment. This booklet has been given to you to provide information about the Arrow® Midline Catheter. Use it in addition to the directions you have received from your nurse or doctor.

A Midline catheter is a small tube that is placed into a blood vessel in one of your arms and the tip is advanced to a position that is below your axillary line (refer to Figure 1). Medications or nutritional fluids can be given through the catheter for an illness that requires treatment over a period of time. A Midline catheter is an alternative to having repeated needle sticks or surgery to place another kind of IV (intravenous) device.

The Midline catheter consists of a short, hollow tube (lumen) with one (or more) holes at the tip that lies within the body and a hub at the other end that is outside of the body on the arm surface (refer to Figure 2). Medications or fluids can be given through the hub continuously or injected periodically.

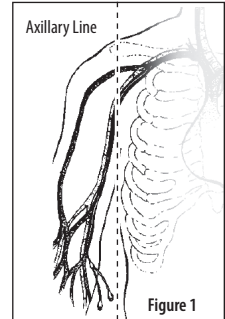


Figure 1

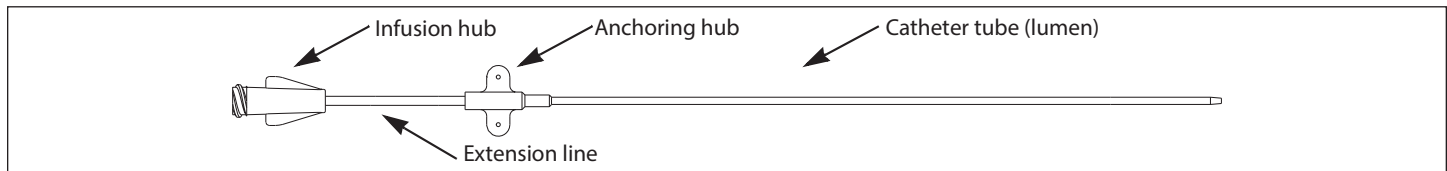


Figure 2

Catheter Insertion:

The catheter is inserted by a doctor or nurse into a blood vessel on the inside of your arm above where the elbow bends. Measurements are taken to estimate the amount of catheter that needs to be inserted. The doctor or nurse will use sterile technique to insert the catheter. This means that precautions will be taken to make sure that germs are not inserted with the catheter. Similar care should be taken with all further catheter-related procedures.

Catheter Care and Maintenance:

Dressings:

The insertion site and external portion of the Midline catheter should be covered with a protective dressing. The dressing will help to hold the catheter in place and keep the area clean and protected from germs.

Because the catheter is small and pliable, the catheter body can be anchored in place by using stitches, sterile tape strips or a special anchoring device. The special anchoring device consists of a catheter clamp and a crescent shaped adhesive strip. The strip is placed on the arm and the catheter clamp that has been applied to the catheter is snapped into place (refer to Figures 3, 4). Another dressing, either gauze or a transparent sheet, is placed over the site as a final protective measure.

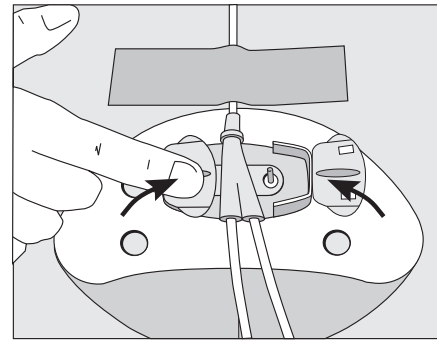


Figure 4

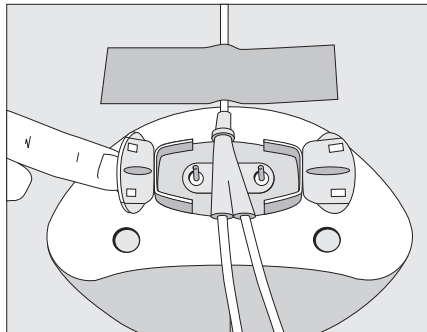


Figure 3

If you or a family member have been trained to redress your catheter, follow the directions given by your doctor or nurse. Be sure to wash your hands prior to starting the procedure and use sterile technique as you have been instructed. As a safeguard, do not use sharp instruments such as scissors during the dressing change to avoid accidentally cutting your catheter. Inspect the insertion site regularly for any redness or drainage, and watch the catheter to make sure it does not move in or out further than when it was inserted. If the dressing becomes loose, make sure that it is changed.

Flushing:

To keep your Midline catheter open to flow, it may be flushed and filled with a weak sterile salt solution also known as sterile normal saline or an anti-clotting solution. The solution keeps blood from backing up into the lumen and forming a clot. If you or a family member are caring for your catheter, follow the directions given by your doctor or nurse. They will tell you what solution should be used as well as the amount that should be given and how often the catheter should be flushed.

Complications:

Although you should not expect a problem to occur that is related to your Midline catheter, it is important that you become familiar with the signs and symptoms that might signal such a problem.

Signs and Symptoms	Possible Cause	Directions	Prevention
Drainage, redness, pain, swelling around insertion site, fever and chills.	Infection.	Call doctor or IV nurse.	Use sterile technique. Keep sterile dressing over site. Wash hands prior to procedures.
Inability to inject.	Catheter clotted or kinked.	Call doctor or IV nurse.	Completely fill catheter lumen with locking solution between treatments. Flush catheter well before and after medications.
Leaking from external catheter.	Break in catheter material, hub separation.	Call doctor or IV nurse. Fold catheter together below leaking area and tape securely.	Do not use alcohol or acetone (as in nail polish or tape remover) on catheter. Do not pull on catheter.
Pain on injection.	Inflammation of vein.	Call doctor or IV nurse.	Medications should be given slowly.
If your catheter has the special infection protection coating of chlorhexidine, you need to be aware of the possible allergic reaction(s) associated with the use of chlorhexidine; Redness at insertion site, hives, itching, anxiety, chest discomfort or tightness, cough, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, abnormal (high-pitched) breathing sounds, dizziness or light-headedness, flushing or redness of the face, nausea or vomiting, palpitations, swelling of the face, eyes, or tongue, unconsciousness, wheezing.	Allergic reaction to chlorhexidine: Most severe allergic reactions occur within seconds or minutes after catheter insertion when you will be in the presence of the nurse or doctor. However, some reactions can occur after several hours. Anaphylaxis is the severest reaction which can occur. It occurs suddenly and within minutes of catheter insertion and immediate medical attention is needed.	Tell the nurse or doctor about any of these symptoms while the catheter is being inserted or as they occur.	Inform the doctor or nurse of any allergies associated with chlorhexidine before having the catheter inserted.

Questions:

The following questions cover topics concerning your daily routine while your Midline catheter is in place. You may want to discuss them with your doctor or nurse.

Are there any limits to my activities?

May I bathe/shower and swim while my catheter is in place?

How often should my dressing be changed?

How often should my catheter be flushed and what solution should be used?

What fluids and medications will I be receiving through my catheter?

Are there any special instructions concerning my IV medications?

Who should I call if I have questions about my Midline catheter?

Other

Catheter Care Schedule

Date	Dressing Change	Flushing Procedure	Tubing Change	Cap Change

Medication Administration

Date	Time	Medication	Dosage

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