

TMA Vascular Access Center

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October 2016 Newsletter

The Hemodialysis Machine and your Vascular Access



The hemodialysis machine is well designed instrument that not only provides the patient with fluid and waste removal but monitors the vascular access performance. The staff is trained in observing and reporting alerts that indicate your vascular access is not performing as well as it should therefore affecting your quality of treatment. These alerts include:

1. High venous pressure or arterial pressure readings
2. Under achieved prescribed Blood flow rates
3. Low or marked decreased access flows
4. Clotting of the dialysis system

If any of these occur, your staff will refer you to have a vascular access evaluation at the access center.

Question of the Quarter:

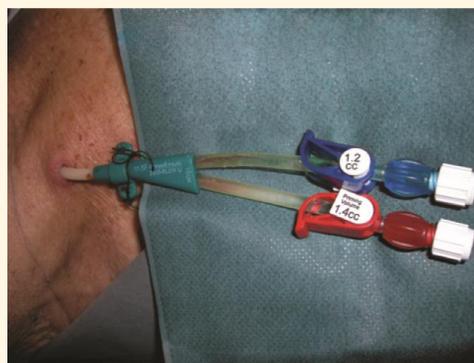
Do you remember how to care for your access at home?

What is a Dialysis Catheter?

A Hemodialysis Catheter is an external dialysis access. They are usually placed into a large vein in your neck but your groin can also be used. The tip of the catheter is placed within your heart and the length is then tunneled under your skin and protrudes through an opening or exit site. At the end of the catheter are 2 ports which your dialysis center will use to attach blood lines for your dialysis treatment. Since the catheter lies partially outside your chest and the tip is placed within your heart there is always a risk of a valve infection or sepsis.

What should I know to help prevent an infection from occurring??

- NEVER SHOWER WHEN YOU HAVE A CATHETER!!!
- The only person who can access your catheter or change the dressing is your dialysis team.
- Plan on getting an Internal Access as soon as possible (Fistula or Graft), since the catheter is meant to be a short term form of access.



TMA Vascular Access Center (www.tmaaccess.com)

Visit our website listed above for more information about the TMA Vascular Access Center.