



Department of Interventional Radiology Oakland

PERMACATH CARE

You have just had a tube placed in your chest/neck for dialysis (or apheresis). The catheter is held in place by sutures attached to your skin. The catheter is designed with a small cuff around it that is under the skin. After a short time your tissue grows into the cuff, helping to anchor it in place and helping to prevent infection. Following are some instructions to assist you in caring for your catheter.

- Expect to be sore for a few days. You may use acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Motrin for this temporary discomfort. Ice packs may help with swelling and discomfort.
- A small amount of blood oozing from the insertion site is normal. If the dressing becomes saturated with blood, hold firm and direct pressure on the insertion site and sit up at a 90-degree angle for 20 minutes.
- Prevent tugging or pulling the catheter. If it is dislodged it may not work properly and may need replacement.
- DO NOT use antibiotic ointments over the insertion area. The Dialysis Center will clean and dress your catheter at your dialysis appointments.
- Keep the catheter dry. You may not shower. Sitting in a tub is permissible as long as the water level is below the catheter. NO SWIMMING!

PROBLEMS OR QUESTIONS

If any of the following problems occur please call the numbers listed at the bottom of the sheet.

1. Continued bleeding after 20 minutes of firm, direct pressure and sitting upright.
2. Fever or chills, redness, heat or sudden swelling around insertion site.
3. Catheter position changes or catheter pulled out.

Interventional Radiology	7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Monday-Friday	(510) 752-7573
Emergency Room	24 hours/day	Daily	(510) 752-7600

Please be informed that _____ had a Permacath placed on _____.

He/she had sutures placed in the neck that will need to be removed at his/her _____ dialysis appointment. **DO NOT** remove sutures that secure the catheter hub to the skin. If you have any questions please call the IR staff at (510) 752-7573.