How do I take care of myself at home?

Insertion site care

- Keep the bandage dry and clean.
- Leave the bandage in place. Only remove it when changing the bandage or told you can take it off.
- **Take tub baths or sponge baths** for 1 week, but only get wet to the mid-chest. No showers the first week.

Activity at home

- Return to your normal daily activities the day after the procedure.
- While the catheter is in place:
  - Only do light activities.
  - Only lift or carry things lighter than 4.5kg (101bs) on the side with the catheter.
  - Carry shoulder bags/purses on the side without the catheter.
- If you have any pain, take the pain medicine you usually take for minor aches and pains.

When to get help

Contact your doctor as soon as possible if you notice:

- any bleeding from the incision site that does not stop
- redness, pain, or pus from the incision site
- fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, and chills

Go to the nearest Emergency Department <u>or</u> call 9-1-1 if any of the following happen:

- the catheter falls out
- sudden shortness of breath
- chest pain

Locations

Abbotsford-Regional Hospital Medical Imaging, 2nd Floor, Fraser Wing 32900 Marshall Road, Abbotsford	604-851-4866
Burnaby Hospital Medical Imaging, 3rd Floor 3935 Kincaid St., Burnaby	604-434-4211
Lions Gate Hospital Medical Imaging, Lower Level 231 East 15th Street, North Vancouver	604-984-5775
Richmond Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor 7000 Westminster Hwy, Richmond	604-278-9711
Royal Columbian Hospital Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower 330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster	604-520-4640
St. Paul's Hospital Medical Imaging, 2nd Floor, Providence Building 1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver	604-806-8006
Surrey Memorial Hospital Medical Imaging, 1st Floor, Lower Level 13750 96th Avenue, Surrey	604-588-3308
UBC Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor 2211 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver	604-822-7076
Vancouver General Hospital Interventional Radiology, Jim Pattison Pavilion Station 4, Ground Floor, 855 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver	604-875-4111 Ext 68612

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.

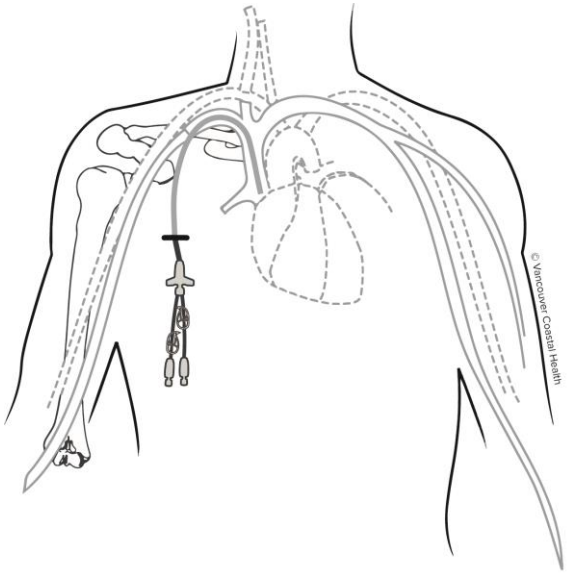
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Tunnelled Venous Access Catheter

Putting one in place

Medical Imaging



I am having this type put in:

- ☐ Hickman®
- ☐ Trifusion®
- ☐ Groshong®
- ☐ Powerline®

What is an Tunnelled Venous Access Catheter?

This is a type of intravenous. We use this for people who need infusions often or all the time.

The catheter is a long, hollow, flexible tube placed under the skin (tunnelled) into a large vein in your chest. Depending on the type, it can have 1, 2, or 3 openings or ports.

The catheter can be used to give medicines (such as chemotherapy), fluids, blood or blood products, and nutrition directly into the bloodstream. Sometimes, it is used to take blood samples.

This type of intravenous can stay in place the whole time you need to be treated. This can be for months in some cases. When the catheter is not being used, you will need it flushed regularly with a small amount of fluid to keep it open. The bandage also needs changing regularly.

Who will be doing the procedure?

A radiologist (a doctor who specializes in image-guided procedures) uses ultrasound and fluoroscopy to accurately place the catheter.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, a relative or friend can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for safety reasons, they cannot be in the room with you during the procedure. We will tell you where they can wait during the procedure.

You must arrange for a responsible adult to drive or escort 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.

If you have questions about the procedure, you can ask the radiologist before we start.

What happens during the procedure?

We start an intravenous in one of your arms before the procedure. This allows us to give you medicine to help you relax (sedation).

You lie on the x-ray table.

We clean your neck and chest, then cover the area with sterile cloths.

The radiologist:

- Injects numbing medication (similar to dental freezing) into area where the catheter will enter the skin.
- Makes a small cut (incision) in the skin.
- Guides the catheter under the skin and into a large vein in your chest using ultrasound and real-time x-ray (fluoroscopy).
- Put in 1 to 2 stiches (sutures) or attach a device to secure the catheter in place until the area heals.
- Places a bandage over area.

We do a chest x-ray afterwards to make sure the catheter is in the right place.

Will it hurt?

You may have some pain or discomfort in the neck while the catheter is inserted into place. We use numbing medication and pain medication to help with this.

How long will it take?

It takes about 45 minutes to 1 hour for the procedure and up to 1 to 2 hours to recover. Plan to be at the hospital for at least 2 to 3 hours.

What happens after the procedure?

We move you to a recovery area. A nurse checks your blood pressure, heart rate, breathing, and the area where the catheter goes through the skin, called the incision site.

In 2 to 4 weeks, any stitches you have will need to be taken out by someone specially trained to do this. Who takes out stitches and changes the bandage depends on whether you are in the hospital or at home.
If you are at home, it depends on where you live and where you are getting treatment.

Your stitches could be taken out and bandages could be changed by:

- ☐ A nurse at the hospital clinic
- ☐ A home care nurse in your home
- ☐ Your doctor in the office

Are there any risks or complication?

Any time the skin is pierced or cut, there is a chance of infection. Because the catheter is going into a large vein, there is a chance of bleeding from the insertion site.

over…