

Apheresis Catheter (Vas-Cath) Insertion

Your doctor has asked us for an apheresis catheter to be inserted.

We have designed this brochure to help you prepare for your procedure.

What is an Apheresis Catheter?

An apheresis catheter is a special tube placed into a large vein usually from the neck into the chest. The tube is of large diameter allowing for the large volume of blood flow required for apheresis or dialysis. The tube can stay in for several months and is removed when no longer required.

Preparation

- You will be given instructions by our booking staff regarding the time of your appointment and any necessary preparation.
- You will be admitted to day surgery.
- Please shower on the morning of your procedure before coming to the hospital.
- You are required to fast for 4 hours prior to this procedure.
- You should take your normal medications with a sip of water.
- You need to notify us and your referring doctor if you are on blood thinning medications or injections (eg aspirin, warfarin, coumadin, Plavix or Clexane etc.) or if you are taking fish oil or krill oil as these also increase the risk of bleeding. These medications may need to be stopped several days before your procedure.
- You will be changed into a hospital gown and an intravenous line will be inserted.

Procedure

- You will be taken from day surgery to the radiology department and asked to lie on an x-ray bed. A specialist Radiologist performs the procedure assisted by nursing and technical staff.
- You will be given intravenous sedation to help make you calm and relaxed during the procedure.

- The skin insertion site in the neck is cleaned with an antiseptic solution and made numb with local anaesthetic. The catheter is placed into the vein through a small incision and will be stitched in place.
- An ultrasound machine is used to allow ready access to the vein and the x-ray machine is used to make sure the catheter is positioned appropriately.
- A dressing will be applied.

Post procedure

- You will initially be observed in the radiology department and then return to day surgery. You need to rest in bed for around 2 hours after the procedure to minimise the risk of bleeding or bruising at the insertion site. You can eat and drink during this time.
- You will then need someone to drive you home where you should rest until the following day. Strenuous activity should be avoided for at least 5 days after the procedure to allow the area to recover. Your particular circumstances can be discussed with the radiology staff at the time of your procedure.
- The dressing should remain clean and dry.
- Paracetamol should help with any discomfort once the local anaesthetic wears off.



If you experience excessive pain, redness, fever or you feel the catheter has moved please contact our clinic nurses directly on **07 3232 7499** between 8.00am and 6.00pm or your referring doctor. The Wesley Emergency Centre is open 24 hours and available on **07 3232 7333**.