

## Apheresis Catheter (Vas-Cath) Insertion

Your Doctor has asked for an apheresis catheter to be inserted. We would like to make your visit as comfortable as possible. This brochure provides some information to help you prepare for the procedure.

An apheresis catheter is a special type of tube that is placed into a vein. The tube has a large diameter which allows greater volumes of blood flow at the time of apheresis. An apheresis catheter is inserted by an Interventional Radiologist in the radiology department.

### Preparation

- You will be given instructions regarding the time of your appointment and any necessary preparations.
- You will require admission to day surgery.
- You will need to **fast 4 hours** prior to your procedure.
- You should take your usual medications with a small sip of water. Please notify us if you are taking fish oil, krill oil, blood thinning medications or injections e.g. aspirin, warfarin, coumadin or clexane etc.
- You should have a shower at home on the morning of your procedure before coming to the hospital.

### Procedure

- You will be changed into a gown and an IV cannula will be inserted.
- You will be taken to a radiology procedure room and asked to lie on an x-ray bed.
- You will be attached to a monitor and covered in sterile drapes.
- The Interventional Radiologist will give you some sedation so you feel calm and relaxed during the procedure.
- The catheter insertion site will be sterilized and made numb by a tiny injection of local anaesthetic

The Radiologist will use the x-ray equipment in the room to ensure the catheter is placed correctly.

- The catheter is placed into the vein through a small nick in the skin and will be stitched and a dressing applied.

### Post procedure

- You will need to rest in bed for around 2 hours after the procedure to minimize the risk of bleeding or swelling at the insertion site. You can eat or drink at this time.
- If you are a day case you will need someone to drive you home after the procedure where you should rest.
- The incision sites may experience a small amount of pain after the local anaesthetic wears off, you may take paracetamol to control the pain.
- Vigorous activity should be avoided for 5 days post line insertion, your particular circumstances can be discussed with the Radiologist or your referring Doctor.
- It is important your dressing stays clean and dry; you must keep it covered with a clean dressing.



If you experience bleeding or excessive bruising/swelling, redness or other evidence of infection please contact our clinic nurses between 8.00am and 6.00pm. Outside these hours please contact your local emergency centre or referring doctor.