

## Hickman Catheter Insertion

Your Doctor has asked for a Hickman 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.

A Hickman catheter is a special type of tube that is placed into a large vein. It is usually placed in the chest region and the tip of the catheter is positioned in the one of the largest veins in your body. A Hickman 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 neck, this is the entrance site, and you will also have some stitches where the catheter is positioned on your chest region. A dressing will be 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.