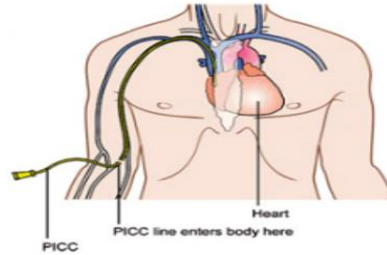


INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/ CARERS OF A CHILD

REGARDING THE INSERTION OF A PERIPHERALLY INSERTED CENTRAL CATHETER (PICC)



WHAT IS A PICC LINE?

It is a small tube that is placed into a large vein, close to the heart (superior vena cava) through a vein in the arm.

- The tube is made of polyurethane, which is a flexible material that softens at body temperature, making it a comfortable way of delivering treatment.
- It will be used to administer the medication / fluid therapy your infant/child needs.
- Once your PICC is inserted, an x-ray will be performed to make sure the tube is in the correct position. The x-ray will be checked by the doctor prior to using the tube.
- The insertion of a PICC line is carried out by a specially trained nurse from the IV team or a consultant anaesthetist.
- The patient will be lying down for the procedure and it will take approximately 40 minutes (it may take longer).

WILL IT BE SORE FOLLOWING INSERTION?

- Local anaesthetic is used to numb the skin at the insertion site.
- There may be slight discomfort following insertion. Slight swelling can occur in some patients. This is relieved by gentle exercise, pain relievers and or warm / cold packs.

PLEASE INFORM NURSING STAFF IF THERE IS ANY DISCOMFORT OR SWELLING.

WHY DO YOU NEED A PICC LINE?

- When a patient has poor venous access.
- Where there is frequent cannulation required
- For intravenous treatment lasting longer than a week.
- Where a bolus administration of certain drugs deemed to be tough on smaller veins.

ADVANTAGES OF PICC'S

- Reduces stress and suffering associated with repeated venepuncture and prolonged hospital stay.
- Usually lasts longer than a peripheral cannula, requiring less venepunctures and preserves venous access.
- Suitable for all intravenous fluids and drugs.
- Reduced complications compared with central line placement e.g. Less scarring, and may not require full anaesthetic for placement.
- Lower infection rates compared with other central venous access devices.
- In some cases, PICC's can be used for blood sampling.

DISADVANTAGES / POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS OF PICC'S

- Occlusion / blockage can occur - to prevent this staff will flush the line frequently.
- Infection / Phlebitis - hand washing and use of aseptic non-touch technique as indicated are essential.
- Daily inspection of site and dressing for swelling, redness, pain or oozing.
- Damage / Displacement - preventable by use of recognised securement device, avoiding sharp objects near the device, suitable transparent dressing
- Malposition - PICC may have to be adjusted into a better position.
- Arterial puncture- may cause bleeding/bruising - apply firm pressure.
- As with any other central device insertion, complications may occur. These will be discussed with you during the decision to insert the PICC line is made with your consultant.

SIGNS TO LOOK FOR

- Temperature 37.5 c or above, fever, chills generally unwell, this may indicate infection; however,
- Oozing from around the line
- Cracks or leaks in the line
- Pain, redness, and swelling around the site, in your neck / arm

PLEASE INFORM YOUR NURSE IMMEDIATELY IF YOU OBSERVE ANY OF THE ABOVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Can I eat or drink before having my PICC inserted?

A. You may need to fast for the procedure but you will be informed.

Q. Can I have a bath / shower and swim?

A. We encourage people with PICC's to take a shower rather than a bath but the PICC must be completely covered with a waterproof dressing e.g. cling film. Swimming is discouraged due to the risk of infection.

CAN I LEAD A NORMAL LIFE?

Having a PICC should not interfere with your life. However, some of the drugs you need may mean you do not feel like certain social activities. You will be advised if these drugs may affect you.

CAN I PLAY SPORTS?

Contact sports such as football, hurling, basketball and tennis or vigorous gym exercises are discouraged. There is a risk that your PICC could become dislodged because of excessive upper body movement.

CAN I GO ON HOLIDAY?

Please talk to your doctor before planning a trip abroad. It is possible to holiday at home and abroad with a PICC in place. However, you need to consider the type of treatment you are having, the duration and destination of your holiday and whether you have someone to help care for your PICC. If you do travel by air carry all your medication in your hand luggage.

If your child is discharged home with a PICC line and you have any concerns:

In hours: Contact the ward/medical team you attend in CHI at Crumlin on 01 455 8111 and ask the switch to contact your medical team or ward.

Out of hours: Attend the Emergency department in your area or CHI at Crumlin to check your child.

Additional instructions

Remember: Ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child's care.

Originally developed by Coleen Moyles PICC CNSp & Rachel Kenna DNM and updated by Dr. Branislav Mislovic, Consultant Anaesthetist, Eileen O'Loughlin PICC CNSp – in conjunction with NPDU

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