

Contact details

If you have any questions regarding your access, the Dialysis Access Co-ordinator is available Monday to Friday, 8am – 4pm and can be contacted on 01438 284624.

A message can be left on the answer phone.

Other Useful Numbers

Ward 6B, Nephrology (Renal) Ward, Lister Hospital	01438 285063
Renal Liaison Department	01438 285643
Lister Haemodialysis Unit	01438 284152
St Albans Haemodialysis Unit	01727 897588
Luton & Dunstable Haemodialysis Unit	01582 497538
Bedford Renal Unit	01438 286750
Harlow Renal Unit	01279 278205

Further information

www.nhs.uk

www.renal.org

www.kidney.org.uk

www.kidneypatientguide.org.uk/site/intro.php

www.enhertr.nhs.uk

You can request this information in a different format or another language.

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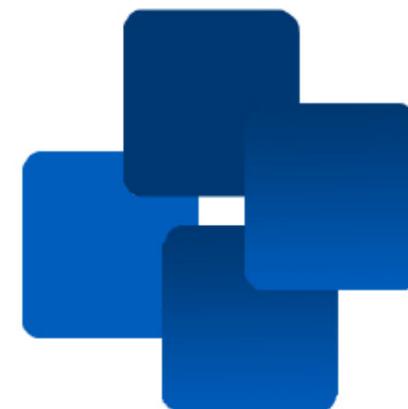
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Patient Information

A Patient's Guide to Having a Tunnelled Renal Dialysis Catheter Removed

Renal Department



Introduction

This leaflet is intended to provide you with information regarding the removal of your tunnelled renal dialysis catheter (RDC).

Why is my renal dialysis catheter being removed?

There are many reasons for removing an RDC which include:

- Your RDC is no longer needed
- Your fistula has been assessed as ready for use
- Your RDC is blocked and is no longer working
- Infection of your RDC

Where is it done?

The dialysis catheter removal will usually be carried out in the minor procedures room in ward 6B. Occasionally it may need to be carried out in theatre. It will usually take approximately 20-30 minutes to perform and will be done under a local anaesthetic.

What preparation will I need?

You will be able to eat and drink normally before the procedure as the renal dialysis catheter is normally removed under a local anaesthetic.

How is the procedure performed?

Before the catheter is removed you will be asked to change into a hospital gown. You will then be taken into the minor procedure room where you will need to lie flat on the bed or couch.

Once in the minor procedure room you will be connected to a cardiac monitor and blood pressure machine so that you can be monitored continuously throughout the tunnelled catheter removal.

Your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution and local anaesthetic injected into the area to make it numb.

Removal of the tunnelled dialysis catheter should not be painful, although you will feel some pressure. This is perfectly normal and does not usually cause significant discomfort to patients. You will be asked to breathe out whilst the catheter is removed, you may also be asked to hold your breath. Gentle pressure will be applied over the entry point as the catheter is removed, this pressure will be maintained for about five minutes following the RDC removal to prevent unnecessary bleeding. Two or three stitches are normally put into the skin and a protective dressing applied.

What complications may occur?

Having a tunnelled dialysis catheter removed is considered a safe procedure but as with any medical treatment, complications can occur:

- The most common complication is bleeding from the small skin wound where the catheter came out. This can be stopped by applying pressure to the area.
- It is possible to damage the lung on the side that the catheter is being removed. If the lung is damaged, it may collapse making you breathless and cough. You may need another procedure (possible insertion of a chest drain) to allow it to expand again. It occurs very infrequently (1 in 400 removals).
- Very rarely a tunnelled dialysis catheter may become embedded into the blood vessel. This may have to be surgically removed by a vascular surgeon under a general anaesthetic.

What happens afterwards?

When you go home you will need to keep your dressing clean and dry. The stitches should be removed in 10 days. If you are on dialysis then one of the nurses should be able to remove the stitches when you come to the unit. Otherwise you will need to book an appointment with the practice nurse at your GP surgery.