

Cuffed Central Line Removal

Cancer Services

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

Introduction

Before your line is removed the procedure will be discussed with you. It will be explained why the line is being removed. This is usually because you no longer need it. In some cases, the line may need to be removed as there is a problem with it such as it being blocked or it being infected.

Your doctor or Chemotherapy / Oncology nurse will arrange a date, time and place for you to come to hospital and have it removed.

Your Central Line will be removed by a Nurse Practitioner who has been specially trained or by one of the Specialist Registrar doctors.

Consent

We must seek your consent for any procedure or treatment beforehand. Your doctor will explain the risks, benefits, and alternatives where relevant before they ask for your consent. If you are unsure about any aspect of the procedure or treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to ask for more information.

What are the risks?

- Potential infection at the wound site and/or in the blood
- Pain during and after the procedure
- Bleeding from the wound site
- Breakage of the line when attempting to remove it
- Air entering the blood stream on removal of the line (Air Embolism)

What will happen before the line removal procedure?

You will have an opportunity to ask questions. If you are happy to continue with the procedure you will be asked to read and sign a Consent Form. (This may have been done at the time you signed a consent form for its insertion).

It is important to let us know if you are taking blood thinning medication such as Apixaban, Rivaroxaban, Warfarin, Aspirin or Heparin injections. You will need to stop taking this medication before the line is removed. Your doctor or Chemotherapy/Oncology nurse will tell you when to stop taking this medication.

We will also arrange for you to have a blood test a couple of days before the procedure. This is to check that your white blood cells (immune system), platelets and blood clotting is at a safe level.

If any of these blood results are abnormal, your doctor or nurse may ask for the procedure to be delayed until you receive treatment to correct them or they improve on their own.

On the day of the procedure

You should tell the person removing the line if you have an allergy to anything.

Bring a copy of any medications that you are taking with you, including any natural remedies or medication purchased at the chemist.

You may eat and drink as normal on the day of your line removal.

How is the line removed?

You will be asked to remove the clothing from your chest area and lie down on a bed provided.

The area of your skin over the line will be examined to locate the "cuff" beneath the skin. This is a special part of the line that allows your skin to attach itself and stops the line falling out when it was put in.

Once the cuff has been found, the skin around it will be cleaned using an antiseptic solution and a sterile towel placed over the area to keep the area sterile.

To ensure you are comfortable during the procedure, a local anaesthetic will be injected to numb the area surrounding the cuff of the line. You may feel the hands resting against your skin, but you should not feel anything sharp or painful.

Once you and the person removing the line are happy the area is numb, then a small cut (approx. 2-3cm) will be made into the skin near the cuff. The skin attached to the cuff will be teased away using forceps until the cuff is free and can be removed easily.

As the line is being removed you will be asked to breathe out forcefully or even make a “buzzing” sound. This is to reduce the risk of air getting into the vein when taking the line out.

Once the line is out, you will be asked to breathe normally.

Firm pressure will be applied to the site for a few minutes to help stop any bleeding and reduce the risk of air getting into the vein.

Once the bleeding has stemmed (stopped), you will require one or two sutures to close the small cut and help to heal the wound.

Finally, a sterile dressing will be applied to the wound and this should remain untouched for 48 hours, unless the dressing accidentally becomes wet, soiled or you notice blood coming through.

After the line has been removed

You may notice your skin being a little sore for a day or so, especially when the local anaesthetic wears off. You may wish to take a mild painkiller like paracetamol to see if this helps. Pain from this procedure should not be unbearable. If you start to become concerned, you should contact the Emergency Helpline Number (contact details at the end of this leaflet).

Occasionally there is a little oozing of blood on the day of removal. This is normal. Should bleeding occur which soaks through the dressing, or the area becomes red and inflamed then you should contact the Emergency Helpline Number (contact details at the end of this leaflet).

If you were asked to stop your blood thinning medication for this procedure, you will be able to restart it again immediately afterwards unless you are told otherwise.

Skin usually heals quickly, and stitches should be removed in 7 – 10 days. We can use two different types of stitches. You will be told what type of stitch has been used in your wound. All stitches should remain in place for 7 – 10 days. If you are told yours needs removing and you no longer require regular oncology follow up, you should contact your GP surgery and arrange for the practice nurse to remove them. Alternatively, we can refer you to the District Nursing Service should you be housebound or unable to attend your GP surgery.

If you have dissolvable stitches, you should notice them completely dissolve by 10 days. Should you feel stitches remain after this time please contact your GP surgery and arrange for your practice nurse to remove them.

We can arrange an alternative plan if this is not appropriate and will agree this with you on the day of your line removal.

If at any time following the procedure you develop chest pain, shortness of breath and/or dizziness you are asked to ring a 999 ambulance and seek urgent medical attention.

Contact details

Should you experience any unbearable pain after the procedure or if your dressing becomes soaked with blood or the area becomes red and/or inflamed or you have concerns about any other symptoms following the procedure, then please contact the Emergency Helpline number as detailed below:

07920 587 036

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。