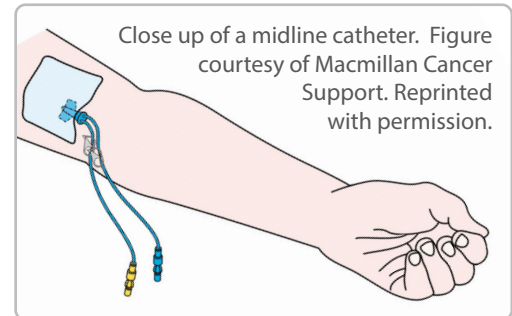


Living with a Midline Catheter

What is a Midline Catheter?

A **midline catheter** is a thin, hollow, flexible tube (catheter) placed in a large vein in your arm. It allows you to receive medicine, solutions, and other treatments directly into your bloodstream.

We have inserted the catheter (also called an intravenous or IV line) into the vein in your upper arm. We have threaded it up through the vein to stop just below the level of your armpit.



What are the advantages of a midline?

Midline catheters provide several advantages over short peripheral IV access.

- We can leave them in place for long periods.
- We can use a midline catheter for 1 to 4 weeks, which means we can restart your IV less often.
- Since the midline catheter is sitting in a larger vein, there may be less complications, such as vein irritation or phlebitis.

What complications should I look out for?

It is normal to have some tenderness after we insert the midline catheter, but the tenderness should disappear within a few days.

While midline catheters provide many advantages, potential problems may occur. The following are the common complications and the signs and symptoms to watch for.

Infection

Germs can get in or around the midline catheter, causing an infection. An infection can become a serious problem if not treated promptly.

Contact your doctor or nurse right away if you have any signs of an infection, such as:

- Redness, swelling, warmth, tenderness, or drainage where the midline enters your body. You may have a "local infection."
- Signs that there is an infection in your bloodstream, such as:
 - » Fever (temperature above 38°C or 100.4°F)
 - » Chills
 - » Vomiting (throwing up)
 - » Diarrhea (loose, watery stool)
 - » Fatigue (feeling tired)
 - » Weakness
 - » Loss of appetite.

Continued on back of page. Please turn over.



What complications should I look out for? (continued)

Phlebitis

Phlebitis, or painful swelling of the vein, can happen if something damages or irritates the tissue or blood vessel near the midline catheter. This may be due to the solutions or fluid we give you.

Due to the location of the midline catheter, we may be limited to certain types of solutions we can infuse. Some infusions may irritate the vein.

Contact your doctor or nurse right away if you have any signs of phlebitis, such as:

- Redness, swelling, pain, hardness, or if the site feels warm to the touch.
- Feel any pain or continued tenderness along the course of your vein.

If you have phlebitis, we may need to remove the midline catheter.



Blockage of your Catheter

If your midline catheter is blocked, you will not be able to flush or infuse medicines through it. This may mean that the medicines are not reaching the proper place.

Your midline catheter can get blocked from:

- Blood clots in the midline catheter itself or in the vein around the catheter. Clots can plug up the catheter, making infusions difficult.
- A kinked, pinched off, or migrated (moved away from its original position) catheter.

Contact your doctor or nurse right away if:

- You notice a problem with your infusion.
- Your pump continues to alarm.



If you have questions or problems with your midline catheter, contact:

HCCSS Case Manager: _____

Your Doctor: _____

**Vascular Access Team
(7:30 am to 11:30 pm):** _____

You can also contact the team through locating at (416) 242-1000

