

RUTGERS Cancer Institute of New Jersey RUTGERS HEALTH

# **Hickman Catheter**

## What is a Hickman Catheter?

A Hickman catheter is a long tube which is placed into a large vein in your chest. The catheter is tunneled under the skin and comes out in your upper chest area. The catheter has a cuff that attaches under the skin to help keep it in place after the stitches are taken out. Your catheter can stay in for as long as it is needed.

#### What is the Hickman Catheter Used For?

- Drawing blood
- Giving chemotherapy drugs and other medicines
- Transfusing blood products
- Giving IV fluids
- Infusing stem cells

#### How do I Prepare for the Procedure?

- Do not eat or drink anything 8 hours prior to your scheduled arrival time.
- Remove all nail polish from your fingernails and toenails.
- Remove all jewelry.
- Some over the counter and prescription medicines can interfere with normal blood clotting and increase the risk of bleeding.
  - Notify your healthcare team if you are taking blood thinners or anti-platelet medicines such as aspirin or plavix<sup>®</sup>.
  - Please review the attached *'Medicine Checklist Before Your Procedure'* document with your healthcare team to help determine when to stop taking certain. medicines prior to your surgery. **Do not stop taking any medicines without talking to your healthcare team.**
- Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Special Procedures will call you the night before with instructions and your appointment time.

#### What Should I Expect on the Day of the Procedure?

Your Hickman catheter is inserted in the Special Procedures Department at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. The procedure from start to finish can be up to 3 hours.

#### If Your Procedure is Outpatient:

- You must have a responsible adult available to drive/escort you home from the hospital. If you are alone, your procedure will have to be rescheduled.
- Arrive at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital main entrance located on Somerset Street. Go to the main lobby and follow signs for the Admitting Department. You will be registered and directed to Special Procedures.
- Only one person may come with you to the pre/post procedural area.
- You will be discharged on the same day as your procedure.





- Your healthcare team will review your insurance and will set up your catheter care in either the clinic or at home.
  - To help care for your catheter at home, ask for the patient education sheet *Caring For Your Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)*

#### If Your Procedure is Inpatient:

- Your healthcare team will make arrangements for the procedure and give you instructions to follow.
- Your healthcare team will review your insurance and will set up your catheter care in either the clinic or at home.

#### When Should I Call My Healthcare Team?

Please call your healthcare team immediately at 732-235-2465 if you have:

- A fever of 100.4° F or higher, or as directed by your provider
- Chills
- Damp or wet dressing
- Increased redness or swelling (some swelling is normal)
- Tenderness or pain
- Bleeding
- Increased shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Heart palpitations or chest pain
- Prolonged numbness, tingling, or decreased feeling in the affected area
- Yellow or green drainage or odor at the catheter site

If you are in need of immediate assistance, please call 732-235-2465 and select the option that best meets your needs.

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# Medicine Checklist Before Your Procedure

Your healthcare team will review your current list of medicines, vitamins and supplements and advise you when to stop taking them.

## \_ days before procedure stop taking the following medicines:

- Aspirin or medicines containing aspirin such as: acetylsalicyclic acid, Excedrin<sup>®</sup>, Percodan<sup>®</sup>, Alka-Seltzer<sup>®</sup>, Pepto-Bismol<sup>®</sup>
- Herbal supplements such as Vitamin E, Omega 3, Fish oil, green tea, gingko biloba
- Steroids such as dexamethasone, prednisone, prednisolone
- Anti-inflammatory medicines or medicines that have an anti-inflammatory ingredient in it such as:

celecoxib (Celebrex <sup>®</sup> )	ketoprofen (Orudis <sup>®</sup> )	naproxen sodium (Aleve <sup>®</sup> /Anaprox <sup>®</sup> )
diclofenac (Voltaren <sup>®</sup> )	ketorolac (Toradol <sup>®</sup> )	piroxicam (Feldene <sup>®</sup> )
hydrocodone bitartrate/acetaminophen (Vicodin <sup>®</sup> )	meloxicam (Mobic <sup>®</sup> )	sulindac (Clinorial <sup>®</sup> )
ibuprofen (Advil <sup>®</sup> , Midol <sup>®</sup> , Motrin <sup>®</sup> )	misoprostol (Arthrotec <sup>®</sup> )	
indomethacin (Indocin <sup>®</sup> )	naproxen (Naprosyn <sup>®</sup> )	

# \_\_\_\_days before procedure stop taking the following blood thinning medicines such as:

abxicimab (Reopro <sup>®</sup> )	dipyridamole (Persantine <sup>®</sup> )	prasugrel (Effient®)
aggrenox (Aspirin, Dipyridamol <sup>®</sup> )	drotrecogin alfa (Xigris <sup>®</sup> )	rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)
apixaban (Eliquis)	enoxaparin (Lovenox®)	ticagrelor (Brilinta®)
clopidogrel (Plavix <sup>®</sup> )	eptifbatide (Integrilin <sup>®</sup> )	ticlopine (Ticlid <sup>®</sup> )
dabigatran (Pradaxa®)	fondaparinux (Arixtra®)	tirofiban (Aggrastat <sup>®</sup> )
dalteparin (Fragmin <sup>®</sup> )	pletal (Cilostazol®)	warfarin (Coumadin®)

Additional/specific instructions:

If you are in need of immediate assistance, please call 732-235-2465 and select the option that best meets your needs.

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