

**AL RAHBA HOSPITAL
VASCULAR SURGERY
Patient information**

DIALYSIS CATHETER

Why you need hemodialysis catheter

Some Patients with End Stage Renal Disease come to the phase when excess of waste products in the body can not be removed due to impaired kidney function. These patients need to be on hemodialysis, where hemodialysis machine function as an artificial kidney.

The patient need access for hemodialysis that blood from the patient can circulate into the hemodialysis machine, where the waste products are removed and then return back to the patient. The blood from the patient and then back from the machine is circulated through the dialysis catheter.

What is the hemodialysis catheter and how it works

Hemodialysis catheter is a double lumen silicon tube inserted into the big vein, usually the jugular or the subclavian vein. The blood from the patient can circulate through the tube into the hemodialysis machine and returns back into the patient, after the waste products have been removed.

Assessment of the patient and Surgery

The patient with renal failure who needs dialysis is referred to Vascular Surgeon by Nephrologist. The necessary blood tests are done and the patient will be scheduled for elective procedure for Insertion of Dialysis Catheter.

The procedure is done in Operating Room using local anesthesia to numb the area. The doctor will carefully insert a needle into the vein in the neck, then the wire is inserted through the needle and the needle is removed.

A tunnel is created just under the skin from below the collar bone to where the needle is inserted. A small pocket under the skin is created to house the catheter and the dilator is threaded onto the wire and guided into the vein. The wire is removed. The catheter is passed through the tunnel and then threaded into the dilator and guided into the vein. The tunneling process allows the catheter to remain in for a long time and reduce the chance of infection. X-Rays are taken during after the procedure to ensure correct catheter positioning.



Figure: Inserted Dialysis Catheter.

You will be discharged from the hospital the same day and follow up by your Nephrologist.