

Hemodialysis (Tunneled) Catheter

What is a Tunneled Catheter?

A **tunneled catheter** is a thin, flexible catheter (tube) which is placed into a vein located in your chest.

Tunneled catheters are used to:

- Take blood samples
- Give blood transfusions
- Give fluids
- Give IV nutrition
- Administer medications

There are many different types of tunneled catheters, your doctor will decide which type is the right one for you.

All tunneled catheters are “tunneled” into a vein under your skin. On the outside, this catheter is divided into multiple different lumens (smaller tubes) which each have their own clamp and needleless connector, as well as a disinfection cap on the end.

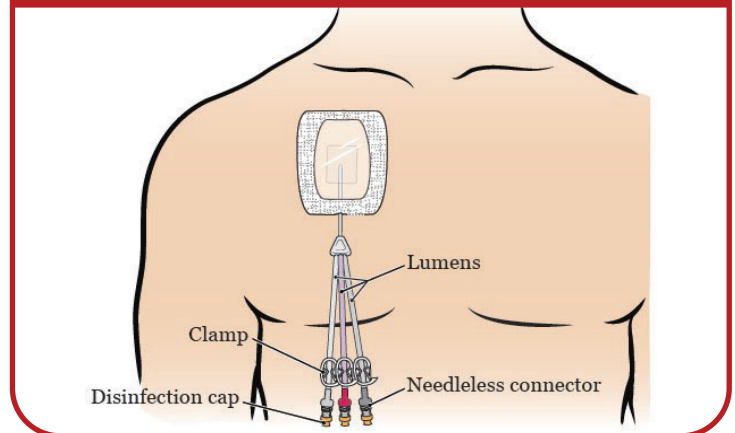
Why do I Need a Tunneled Catheter?

A **Tunneled Catheter** can help patients who frequently require IV medication administration. A tunneled catheter can stay in your system for a period of several years at a time, and will be removed when you no longer need it.

Additionally, there are some medications which can only be administered through this type of catheter.

With a tunneled catheter most patients can continue their everyday normal activities.

A tunneled catheter allows for long term venous access in patients who need regular blood stream access



What Will Happen During My Procedure?

You will be placed under **conscious sedation**, meaning that you will still be able to speak with the staff, however, you will feel very relaxed and will most likely not remember the procedure. Your doctor will give a local anesthetic at the base of your neck, as well as your chest, under your collar bone. They will then make a small incision and place the catheter through the incision, tunneling the catheter to the base of your neck before threading the catheter into your vein. The doctor will use xray imaging in order to confirm the positioning of the catheter. The catheter will be sutured to the skin on your neck in order to hold it in place. Dressing will be placed over the wounds and you will be taken to the recovery room, until you are cleared to be discharged, home.

Important Things to know Before Your Procedure:

- Please notify us if you have **any known allergy to dye or contrast**. If you do have a known allergy, you will be prescribed a medication to prevent any reaction to the dye.
- You should not drive for 24 hours after the procedure to recover from the sedation, you will need to arrange for **either**:
 - Someone over the age of 18 to drive you home **or**
 - Inform our office that transportation assistance is needed
- Please bring a list of **all home medications** with you on the day of the procedure.
- Your doctor may tell you to **not eat or drink the night before your procedure**.
- Your doctor may tell you to **stop taking certain medications the day(s) before your procedure**.
- Please inform your doctor if you have **any symptoms of flu, cold, or any other illness on the day of the procedure**.

After Your Procedure:

- You will be taken to the recovery room, where you will stay until you are ready to be discharged.
- It is **not uncommon** to have some minor bleeding and mild discomfort following the procedure.
- **If you have bleeding from the entry site:**
 - Apply pressure
 - Apply cold compress
- **Do not** shower for 24 hours following this procedure.
- Your dressings can be removed **48 hours** after your procedure.

When You Go Home:

- Watch for any signs of swelling or bleeding at the insertion site over the **first 48 hours**. There will be bruising, however, this should subside within the first week. **Avoid strenuous activity such as bending or squatting, do not lift anything over 20 pounds**. It is okay to resume most normal activities such as work, school, sexual activity, showering, and moderate exercise, relatively soon after your procedure.
- **Wound Care:**
 - You can take a shower 1 day after the procedure, **avoid directly spraying the incision site**.
 - You should refrain from all contact sports until cleared by your physician.
 - You should contact your doctor before starting any new activities.
 - **Do not go swimming in hot tubs or pools with your tunneled catheter.**

Contact your doctor if you experience the following:

- Worsening bleeding or discomfort at the insertion site after 3 days following the procedure.
- Fever (100° F or above)
- Severe pain, redness or swelling.
- **Chest pain. If not relieved by medication, CALL 911.**