



## Care of a Broviac or Hickman Catheter

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# Discharge Instructions Care of a Broviac or Hickman Catheter

### MAINTAINING CLEANLINESS

#### Handwashing

Purpose: To minimize transfer of infection.

How: Use warm water, liquid soap (preferably), and wash for 10-20 seconds

When: Prior to and after dressing change or when any signs or symptom of infection appear during dressing change.

#### Clean Work Area

Purpose: To minimize transfer of organisms from surfaces to equipment being used.

When: Wash and dry a table or other surface before each use. Cover with paper towels if you wish.

#### General Considerations

- ❖ Be aware of what is “clean” (i.e. catheter site, sterile supplies) and what is “dirty” (anything else, including packaging of supplies and your hands).
- ❖ Wearing sterile gloves for dressing change does NOT mean one is allowed to touch both clean and dirty surfaces!
- ❖ Clean the catheter site in a circular motion, starting at the catheter and working outward. Never go back to the catheter site.
- ❖ Clean the catheter itself from the insertion site outward for the length which will be covered by the dressing.
- ❖ Observe the site for signs and symptoms of infection: redness, swelling, drainage or pus.



- ❖ Report any signs of infection to your doctor along with fever above 100°F, inability to flush catheter or cracks or holes in the catheter.
- ❖ Do NOT use scissors or any sharp-edged objects-they can damage the catheter.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Schedule**

Daily dressing changes are done for the first ten days after catheter insertion, then three times a week or as determined by your doctor.

### **Bathing and Showering**

Avoid wetting or moistening the dressing materials since organisms which cause infection can be drawn into the wound site. Tub baths may be allowed earlier than showering. Ask your doctor when you can bathe. Change any damp dressings.

### **Dressing Change**

1. Remove old dressing with non-sterile gloves.
2. Inspect site for redness, drainage, swelling, or pus.
3. Wash your hands.
4. Open dressing kit.
5. Put on sterile gloves.
6. In a circular outward motion , cleanse the area around the catheter insertion site with:
  - 3 alcohol swabs
  - 2 betadine swabs ( allow betadine to dry)
  - 3 alcohol swabs
7. Clean the outside of the catheter using alcohol swabs. Start from where the catheter exits your skin and move toward the catheter's end.
8. Apply 2x2 sterile gauze and tegaderm.
9. LoopHickman / Broviac and tape to outside.
10. Remove gloves, wash your hands.



## Flushes

Use flushes with each treatment, always using 300 units heparin last.

Use S-A-S-H order of administration, (Saline, Administer treatment or medication, Saline and Heparin).

If no treatments are being given, flush with 300 units of heparin three times a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) to prevent blockage. If the Hickman/Broviac has more than one lumen, flush each lumen.

A 10cc or larger syringe should be used for flushing catheters.

## Clamps

Use only smooth-edged clamps, preferably on reinforced areas of the tube (usually marked "clamp here"). Do not use a clamp that has "teeth", which can damage the catheter.

Carry the clamp with you at all times. Always clamp off the tube before attaching or removing the injection cap or any connection from the catheter.

## Gloves

These are worn when changing the dressing during the initial healing phase. Continue to use until your doctor has determined the site is healed. (See the "General Considerations" section of "Maintaining Cleanliness").

## AVOIDING PROBLEMS

### Blockage

Use flushes with each treatment (follow the S-A-S-H order of administration), avoid kinks in the tubing, be aware of clamps and when they must be closed or open. Contact to the doctor if unable to flush.

### Cracks or Leaks

If a crack or leak is observed, clamp the tube close to the chest with a smooth edged clamp. Contact the doctor so repair or replacement can



take place. Small leaks from the injection cap site can sometimes be stopped by changing the cap.

### **Air Bubbles**

Purge air from tubing, equipment and syringes prior to use or connecting to catheter.

### **Dislodged Tube**

Clamp the catheter, tape it securely and call doctor at once.

### **Call your doctor promptly for these observations:**

- ❖ Inability to flush or infuse medications into the catheter. **DO NOT FORCE** (but look for obvious kinks or closed clamps).
- ❖ Signs of infection: redness, swelling, drainage or pus, fever above 100°F;
- ❖ Crack or hole in tube.

Please review these materials and ask if you have any questions related to this or other aspects of self-care.

**Reference:** Bard Access Systems, “How to Care For Your Hickman, Broviac or Leonard Catheter”-Patient Guide, and information from [www.bardaccess.com](http://www.bardaccess.com)