

## INTRODUCTION

You have opted for peritoneal dialysis as your preferred form of dialysis. This therapy will take over some of the important jobs that your kidneys can no longer do.

## WHAT IS A PERITONEAL DIALYSIS CATHETER?

A peritoneal dialysis catheter (Tenckhoff catheter) is a tube made of translucent silicone rubber with a radio-opaque stripe, two cuffs and drainage holes at one end.

## WHERE IS IT DONE?

The peritoneal dialysis catheter insertion takes place in theatre under general anaesthetic.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN BEFORE THE PROCEDURE?

You will be admitted to the ward where a PD nurse will speak with you. For this procedure, routine swabs will be taken from your nose and umbilicus (bellybutton) to rule out infection. To ensure your bowels are empty; You may be given a laxative. The morning of surgery you will be given Hibiscrub antiseptic to shower with. Please wash the abdomen and umbilical area well. You will be required to fast from 12 midnight the night before. You will have routine bloods done, chest x-ray and ECG, (tracing of the heart) if necessary. You will be asked to sign a consent form agreeing to undergo surgery after a doctor has explained the procedure and its associated risks to you. You will be given an antibiotic in a drip to reduce the risk of infection during surgery. A nurse will prepare you for theatre and accompany you there.

## RISKS INCLUDE

Bleeding, infection, bowel perforation, catheter malposition and reaction to anaesthetic. However you will be monitored closely for signs of these.

## PLACEMENT OF PERITONEAL DIALYSIS CATHETER

An incision is made below the bellybutton. The catheter is inserted through the incision and brought out to the skin surface through an exit site to the far right or left of the bellybutton. Stitches or staples are used to close the incision. An extension set is attached to the catheter and dressings are applied over the wound sites. A PD nurse may flush the catheter in theatre to check its position and that it is working efficiently.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?

You should remain in bed after the general anaesthetic. Your blood pressure, pulse, temperature and wound sites will be checked frequently by your nurse on the ward. You will be provided with pain relief as required. You may eat and drink again once the doctor has checked it is safe to do so. The catheter may be flushed again if necessary by the PD nurse.

## CARE OF THE PERITONEAL DIALYSIS CATHETER

On the day of discharge a PD nurse will discuss discharge advice with you and you will be given an emergency pack containing a

blue clamp, gauze dressings and a minicap for the catheter. Your PD nurse will explain how to use these if the need arises.

- You must not shower for 2 weeks after the surgery.
- Bathing and swimming are not allowed in order to prevent wound infection.
- The wound dressings will be changed by the PD nurse 5 days after surgery and again 5 days later when the stitches or staples are also removed. The exit site dressing is changed every second day thereafter. You will be educated to do the exit site dressing or a community nurse may call to your home to do it for you.
- A bowel routine is essential. You may need to take laxatives to ensure daily bowel motions, as constipation can alter the catheter position and affect dialysis.
- Avoid lifting or carrying heavy weights for at least 6 weeks, thereafter it should be discussed with your doctor or PD nurse.
- Walking is a perfect gentle exercise, start slowly and gradually build up.
- Please arrange for a relative or friend to collect you and take you home on the day of discharge.

- Peritoneal dialysis training usually takes place on Hamilton ward (3rd Floor), 2-6 weeks after surgery when the wounds have healed.
- Driving - please discuss this with your doctor.
- Do not use sharp objects such as razors or scissors near the catheter to avoid damage to it.
- If you experience any of the following symptoms please contact the PD unit immediately: nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fever, discharge from wounds, redness, pain or swelling at wound sites, feeling generally unwell, constipation or damage to the catheter.

## SUPPORT

If you have any queries or concerns do not hesitate to contact us on the numbers listed below:

**PD UNIT:** (01) 8528152  
**Damiens Ward (00 353 1) 809 2292**



## RENAL UNIT

### *Tenckhoff Catheter Information*

