

Caring for your midline

Information for patients

The aim of this leaflet is to help answer some of the common questions you may have about having a midline. It is not intended to be exhaustive but explains what can be expected before, during and after the procedure. If you would like further information, or have any worries, please do not hesitate to ask your nurse or doctor.

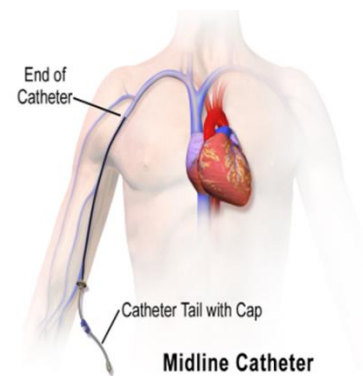
NAME:

Confirming your identity

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your name and date of birth and check your ID band. If you do not have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm your address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check. Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

What is a midline?

A midline is a soft flexible catheter inserted into a vein in your arm, usually above the elbow. The catheter is between 10cm and 25cm in length. This device is considered a peripheral line and can be described as a long cannula. Midlines are inserted by clinical specialist nurses, the Vascular Access Team, advanced practitioners or a doctor.



Why do I need a midline and what are the benefits?

Midlines are used to administer a variety of different intravenous (IV) therapy from 7 days up to 4 to 6 weeks. This line is considered if it is difficult to insert a cannula or if intravenous therapy is likely to continue for more than one week. Inserting this catheter will also vary based on medical condition and proposed treatment. Having a midline will:

- reduce irritation to the veins
- stop repeated needle stick for cannulation and blood draw
- allow for safe administration of most IV medication straight to your bloodstream
- reduce the length of time you stay in hospital

Consent

We must by law obtain your written consent to any operation and some other procedures beforehand. Staff will explain the risks, benefits and alternatives before they ask you to sign a consent form. If you are unsure about any aspect of the treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to ask to speak with a senior member of staff again.

Biopatch is applied to the insertion site before, and in addition to, applying a standard sterile transparent semipermeable IV dressing. The patch is designed to continuously release CHG antiseptic onto the insertion site.



STICKER LABEL HERE

Your midline line information

Date of placement: _____

Catheter type: _____

No. of Lumen: **Single / Double**

Size: **3Fr / 4Fr / 5 Fr**

Site of insertion: **Right / Left**

Vein: _____

Length: Internal = _____ cm ; External= _____ cm

Securement device used:

SecurAcath _____

Grip-Lok _____

Statlock _____

NB: You can have a scan/MRI with the SecurAcath. It does not need to be changed weekly, and will only be removed when the catheter is removed.

Midline MUST be removed as soon as the treatment stops.

For further assistance, please contact:

Vascular Access Team (Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm)

King's College Hospital: 020 3299 7709

Princess Royal University Hospital and South Sites: 01689 864231

Problem	Possible cause	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redness and/or tenderness around upper arm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May occur in first few days of line being inserted • Vein irritated by line • Medication has leaked from line, very rare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact nursing team of the ward you were discharged from (they may need further advice from King's Vascular Access (VA) team)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever, chills • Soreness, redness or pus at the insertion site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may have infection in your line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take temperature • Call GP and nursing team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood oozing from insertion site – usually a few days after insertion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma at the insertion site, or low blood platelets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nurse may apply pressure dressing or gauze to stop the bleeding and report if it does not stop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swollen arm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible clot formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to A&E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flushing problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line may be clamped or kinked • Line may be blocked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not force flush • Unclamp and/or remove any kinks • Nursing team to contact King's VA Team as soon as possible to have line unblocked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaking from the line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bung not securely connected to Midline. • A small hole in the line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands and tighten the bung • If there is a leak in the line, clamp or fold it over and pinch it between the leak and the skin. Call the King's VA Team as soon as possible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External length of the line increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line is pulled out slightly by accident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not push line back in • Cover with gauze and secure this with tape • Call nursing team as soon as possible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midline line accidentally comes out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulled or snagged unintentionally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get some sterile gauze, press down on the site for at least five minutes • Call doctor or home care nurse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbness or tingling in the arm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive bruising or swelling in the arm causing nerve pressure • Line causing nerve irritation (very rare) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop medication • Contact nursing team or GP to refer you for further investigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redness or itchy skin where the dressing is applied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitivity to skin cleansing solution or dressing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing team should seek advice from King's VA Team. May need to consider alternative cleansing solution, dressing or possible use of skin barrier

Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your dentist if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Tel: 020 3299 3601

Email: kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net

PALS at Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough Common, Orpington, Kent BR6 8ND

Tel: 01689 863252

Email: kch-tr.palspruh@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Communications and Interpreting telephone line on 020 3299 4826 or email kch-tr.accessibility@nhs.net