



What is it?

A peripherally inserted central catheter is a central venous access device that is placed into a vein in the upper arm for the purpose of medium to long term venous access. This device can be used to give treatment or take blood.

Who is it for?

This procedure is ideal for patient who require medium or long term for treatment, typically for prolonged antibiotic treatment or chemotherapy. Although this device does not have the advantage of being implanted under the skin like other central venous access devices such as portacaths, they are more simple and quick to insert. If being able to swim in a pool or the ocean is important to you during treatment, ask your doctor about portacath insertion.

Follow up

You will not need to have follow up with your interventional radiologist after insertion of a PICC line.

What are the risks?

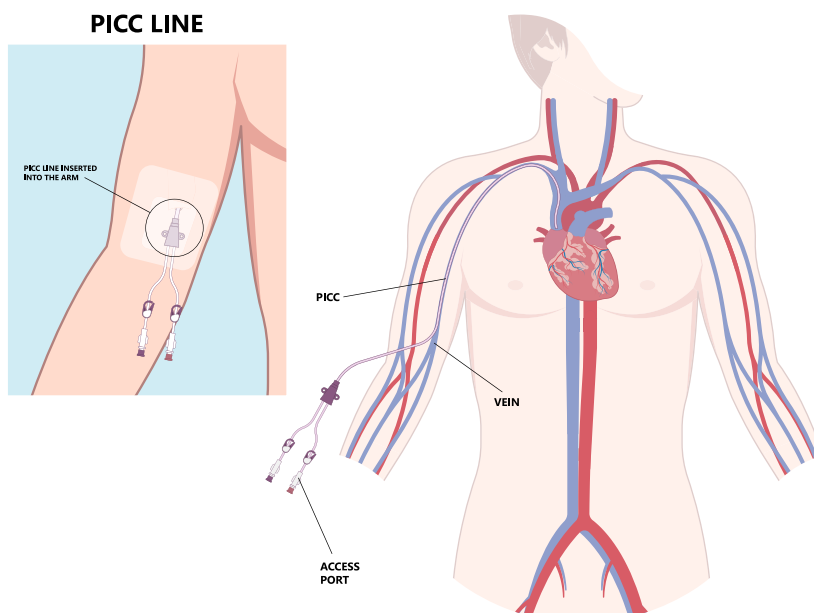
It is important to discuss the risks and complications of this procedure with your interventional radiologist in full, but some of the risk associated with this procedure include:

- bleeding
- infection
- blockage of the veins that the PICC traverses

How is it done?

A PICC insertion is usually done under local anaesthetic in an operating room with specialised medical imaging equipment. Your interventional radiologist will use an ultrasound to guide a fine needle into the vein in the upper arm, and exchanged for a small sheath over a wire. The PICC is measured to the correct length and placed through the sheath into your vein, and passed into the main vein of your chest (superior vena cava) under x-ray guidance. The device is secured to your skin with a dressing that locks onto the hub of the device. It is ready to use right away.

PERIPHERALLY INSERTED CENTRAL CATHETER



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