



What is it?

A Hickman catheter is a tunnelled, cuffed, central venous access device that provided long term venous access for delivery of intravenous treatment or draw blood from.

Who is it for?

Hickman catheters are helpful in patients who require intravenous access for treatment including chemotherapy, bone marrow transplant, parenteral nutrition or delivery of other intravenous medication.

How is it done?

The procedure can be done under either local anaesthetic or sedation in an operating room with specialised medical imaging equipment. Your interventional radiologist will use an ultrasound to guide a fine needle into the vein at the base of your neck (jugular vein). A small incision is made on the chest wall and the catheter is tunnelled under the skin, over the collar bone and then passed into the jugular vein. The tip of the tube sits just above or in the right atrium of the heart, where there is rapid blood flow.

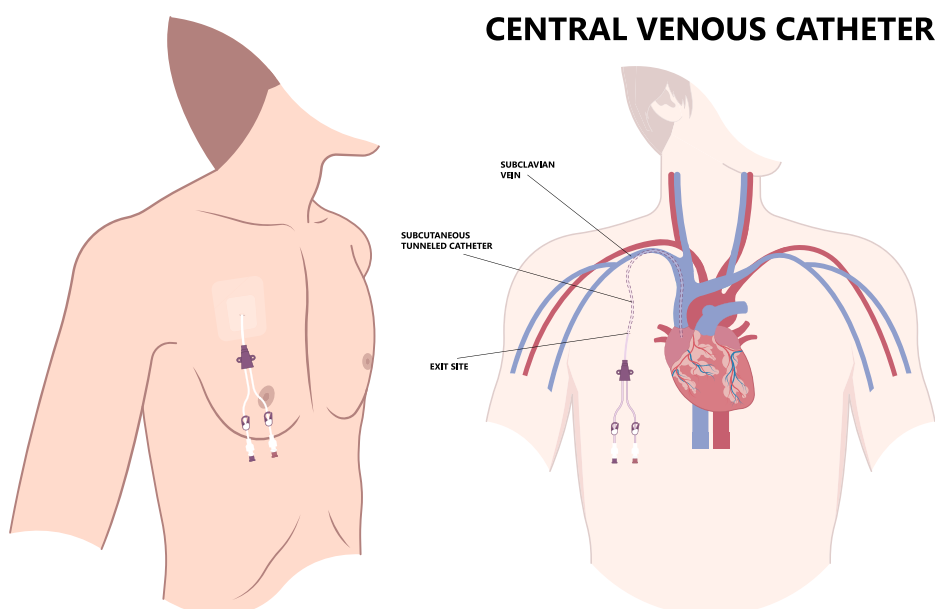
What are the risks?

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 tube
- blockage of the vein that the catheter traverses

Follow up

You will not require follow up with your interventional radiologist, unless the tube requires changing.



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