

Peritoneal dialysis catheter placement: FAQ

Peritoneal dialysis catheter placement is a surgery to place a soft tube (catheter) in an area of your belly (peritoneum) for dialysis. Dialysis fluid will flow into and out of your belly through the catheter.

The surgery is done a few days to a few months before you start dialysis.

You may be asleep/lightly sedated during the surgery. It usually takes less than an hour. You'll likely go home the same day. You may have some pain for a few days after surgery.

How do you prepare for surgery?

Surgery can be stressful. This information will help you understand what you can expect. And it will help you safely prepare for surgery.

- If applicable, tell your doctor right away if there is any chance that you could be pregnant. Your doctor may order a pregnancy test.*
- Be sure you have someone to take you home. Anesthesia and pain medicine will make it unsafe for you to drive or get home on your own.*
- Tell your doctor ALL the medicines and natural health products you take. Some may increase the risk of problems during your surgery. Your doctor will tell you if you should stop taking any of them before the surgery and how soon to do it.*
- **If you take aspirin or any other blood thinners, you should stop taking it FIVE DAYS before your surgery.** Make sure that you understand exactly what your doctor wants you to do. These medicines increase the risk of bleeding.*
- You may need to empty your bowels with a laxative. Your doctor will tell you how to do this.*

What happens on the day of surgery?

- **Have a light lunch and dinner the night before.***
- **Do not eat anything after midnight, the night before.***
- Ok to take your medicine with a sip of water in the morning.*
- Ok to hold your insulin in the morning.*
- Do not shave the surgical site yourself.*
- Take off all jewelry and piercings. And take out contact lenses, if you wear them.*
- **Dr Jalandhara will send prescription to clean out your belly, take it after lunch the day before surgery.***

At the hospital:

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- *Bring a picture ID and insurance information. Let the hospital know if there is change in insurance.*
- *You will be kept comfortable and safe in the Pre-op area. Family member will be allowed with you at the pre-op area.*
- *The surgery will take about an hour or less.*

What to expect after the surgery?

Pain:

Typically, the pain after surgery lasts for the first 48 hours so take the pain medication round the clock. Dr Jalandhara recommends taking acetaminophen (Tylenol) 500 mg three times a day. After 48 hours, if possible, transition to as needed use of Tylenol

Incision Care:

You will have a dressing over the cut (incision). A dressing helps the incision heal and protects it. Do not change or care for the dressing. Dressing changes will be done by your care team until the cut heals.

Catheter Care:

1) Leave dressing in place until changed by home dialysis nurse. If the dressing becomes dislodged or dirty before the dressing change, wash your hands with soap and water. Gently remove the dressing and apply a triple antibiotic ointment such as Neosporin to your catheter exit site. Replace the dressing with clean gauze and tape the catheter into place. If there are any issues, please contact the home dialysis nurse.

2) If is ok to expect oozing of red tinged fluid from the “exit site” (where the catheter enters the skin). We recommend you change dressing when is saturated.

Diet:

You may eat and drink whatever is comfortable for you. There are no dietary restrictions. Recommend starting with light diet and advance as tolerated.

Other Restrictions:

- *ok to start light lifting after the surgery. Recommend to not lift over 25 lbs. weight.*
- *Shower: Do not take a shower or bath until your dialysis coordinator tells you it is safe to do so. You can wash yourself using a sponge at the bathroom sink 5 days after your surgery.*
- *Do not get your dressing wet.*
- *Do not use sharp objects around your catheter like scissors.*

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