Insertion of a Cannula

Sussex Kidney Unit

Information for renal outpatients
Introduction
The doctor who sees you in clinic may decide you need an infusion or an antibiotic which has to be given through a vein. A cannula (a fine tube) will be inserted into one of your veins at the back of your hand or the inner aspect of the arm.

Why is it done?
This allows the administration of medication into the blood stream for example fluids, antibiotic or iron which cannot be given by any other route. The staff will explain the whole procedure to you and address any concerns before inserting the cannula.

- You will be asked if you are right or left handed and if you have had any operations on your arms. This is to help assess which would be the most suitable site to use.

Consent
Before we insert the cannula we will discuss the procedure with you and we will need your verbal agreement that we can do this. If you do not want us to insert the cannula we will respect your wishes and where possible we will ask one of the doctors to discuss it with you.

Are there risks involved?
Sometimes you can get bruising or pain in the area where the needle is inserted. This usually goes within a few days. Infections can occur but are very rare if the cannula has only been in place for a few hours.

If you have pain or swelling which continues for more than three days after the cannula is removed you must contact Renal Outpatients Department on 01273 696955 Ext.4559 / 7624. Or out of hours please ask to be put through to the Renal Ward.
Where is it done?

The back of the hand but if it is unsuitable the inner aspect of the elbow will be used as shown below.

How is it done?

- A band (tourniquet) will be applied to the forearm.
- This makes your veins swell up so we can see them better.
- We will clean the site to be used with a cleansing wipe.
- Then the cannula (fine tube) is inserted and the tourniquet removed.

- The cannula will be secured with a dressing and flushed with fluid to check it is placed correctly before giving the medication.
- The cannula will be removed at the end of the treatment and a dressing put on it to prevent bleeding. The dressing can be removed after 1-2 hours.
If you do not understand this leaflet, we can arrange for an interpreter.

Εάν δεν κατανοείτε τις πληροφορίες αυτές, μπορούμε να διαθέσουμε μετάφραση.

아직 이 전단서를 이해하지 못하는 경우, 해석자를 제공할 수 있습니다.

만약 이 리플릿을 이해하지 못하신 경우, 해석자가 여러분께 제공될 수 있습니다.

Jeśli masz trudności w zrozumieniu tej ulotki, możemy zorganizować tłumacza.

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Thank you to all the patients who volunteered to have photographs taken for this leaflet.

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Disclaimer
The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is in no way intended to replace professional clinical advice by a qualified practitioner.

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