

Day Surgery Unit (Vascular Access Team)

Day Surgery - Discharge advice following a Hickman line insertion

Introduction

This operation involves placing a Hickman line into your body to enable long term intravenous (IV) therapy.

Pain relief

Whilst in theatre local anaesthetic will be injected into your wound, which should keep you pain free for four to six hours, until you reach home.

You may then take your own, over the counter pain killers such as Paracetamol based products (for example Paracetamol, Panadol, Paracodol etc.).

This should relieve any pain or discomfort you may suffer. Please take these tablets regularly for three to four days but do not exceed the stated dose. It is advisable not to take Aspirin based pain killers as this may increase the risk of further bruising. If however, you take Aspirin as a routine medication, it is advisable to contact your GP regarding its continuation.

Always read and follow the instructions on medicines carefully.

Nutrition

After your operation you may resume your normal dietary intake.



Patient Information

Mobility

You may resume normal daily activities the day after your procedure.

Do not do heavy lifting for a week after your surgery. Strenuous exercise should also be avoided for a week.

Bathing

The dressing must remain dry for 24 hours after it was put on, after that you may have a shower or a bath. Verbal advice will be given by the surgeon about dressing care.

Driving

You may resume driving 48 hours after your operation. It is always advisable to confirm this with your insurance company.

Return to work

You may return to work but avoid heavy lifting or strenuous tasks for a week.

Wound care

The stitches in your neck will need removing after 7-10 days. Make an appointment at your GP surgery for this to be done.

Check the dressing for signs of bleeding: A little oozing is normal, but if there is excessive or fresh blood apply a little firm pressure over the wound using a clean dressing for 10-15 minutes.

If the bleeding does not stop or if you are experiencing any problems please contact us on telephone 024 7696 4000 (main hospital switchboard) and ask to speak to the Vascular Access Team on extension 25900. Alternatively contact the Day Surgery Unit on: Telephone number 024 7696 6861.

Patient Information

If your wound:

- Begins to swell
- Starts to smell
- Discharges secretions or bleeds

Contact your GP or the team who are using the Hickman line.

Follow up appointment

Your Hickman line will be cared for by the team administering your intravenous treatment.

Contact details

If you have any concerns or problems following your operation, please contact the **Day Surgery Unit**: Telephone 024 7696 6868 or 024 7696 6861 between the hours of 8:00am and 9:00pm.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6868 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History

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