

Renal Services

Everything I need to know about having a PD catheter removed

Introduction

This information tells you about what will happen when you come into hospital for removal of your Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) catheter.

Why do I need my PD catheter removed?

Your PD catheter will be removed for one of the following reasons:

- Following a successful kidney transplant;
- Changing your type of dialysis treatment to haemodialysis;
- If the PD catheter fails to work;
- In the event of an episode of peritonitis which does not respond to antibiotic treatment;
- If you develop a tunnel or exit site infection which does not respond to antibiotic treatment.

Before the operation

You will get an appointment to see the surgeon and the anaesthetist before your admission to hospital. Some tests may be done at this time such as a heart tracing, a chest x-ray and blood test. Sometimes these tests may be done nearer to the day of your operation. It is likely that at this time they will discuss the two options available for catheter removal. The surgeon will discuss the different methods available as appropriate and will also discuss the benefits and risks involved. You will be asked to sign a form to state that you understand the operation that you are having and that you are willing to have the operation.



Removal of catheter without general anaesthesia

If you are suitable for this type of removal and you are in agreement the surgeon will attempt this in theatre. You will still be prepared for a general anaesthetic but if this is successful it will not be necessary. If the attempt is unsuccessful then you will be given a general anaesthetic and the catheter will be removed as explained below. This procedure does not require any incisions to be made. The catheter is pulled out leaving the catheter cuffs in your tissue under the skin which will form scar tissue later on. This procedure takes just a few minutes.

Removal of catheter under general anaesthesia

When this method is agreed you will be given a general anaesthetic and the surgeon will make a couple of small incisions to remove the catheter. During the operation a small cut is made (about 2 – 3 inches) near the tummy button. The surgeon will carefully detach the cuffs, which hold the catheter in place from the surrounding tissue. When the catheter has been removed the cut will be closed using stiches, staples or special glue. The surgeon will decide what to use to give you the neatest scar. This operation takes around 30 minutes but you will be away from the ward for longer than this as you will wait in theatre for transfer back to the ward. You are likely to require more dressings to the site in the post-operative period.

After the operation

When the operation is over and you are back on the ward you will have your blood pressure, pulse and wound checked regularly by the nurses. If you have had your catheter pulled out without general anaesthesia, you will be able to eat and drink on return to the ward. You will be able to go home after 1 hour.

You may feel some discomfort around the site of the operation or in the tummy. Please let the nurses know and they will give you some painkillers. If you have had a general anaesthetic a doctor will need to check that your bowel has not 'gone to sleep' by listening to your tummy with a stethoscope. If they can hear your bowel making noises (which is perfectly normal) then you will be allowed small drinks at first, building up to eating and drinking normally.

Patient Information

Most people will go home 4 – 6 hours after the operation if they have had a general anaesthetic providing they are eating and drinking normally.

Following discharge

If you have had your catheter pulled out you will have a small dry dressing over the old exit site. This can be changed as necessary by PD nurse, Practice Nurses or yourselves if you are happy to do so.

If the catheter was removed under general anaesthetic you are likely to have a slightly bigger wound that may require packing. Appointments will be made with either the PD nurses or District Nurses to dress this wound until healed. This will require re-dressing 2 -3 times per week.

Helpful Telephone Numbers

CAPD nurses	02476968308	7.30am – 8. 00pm
Ward 50	02476968257/8	24 hour

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 8308 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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Document History

Department:	Renal Services
Contact:	28308
Updated:	November 2019
Review:	November 2022
Version:	6.1
Reference:	HIC/LFT/588/07