

## Renal Services

# Haemodialysis Reliable Outflow (HeRO) Graft™

### What is (HeRO) graft?

The HeRO graft is a device that is used in patients who have narrowing (Stenosis) or blockage in major veins in the neck or chest. When the veins are narrowed or blocked, standard AV fistulas and grafts either do not work or cause symptoms such as arm swelling. The HeRO graft is a special type of tube that can be placed through the narrowing and then connected to a standard graft which can be used for dialysis. The graft and the HeRO are both tunnelled under the skin so carry a lower risk of infection compared to a dialysis catheter.

### How does the HeRo graft work?

HeRO graft bypasses the blockage in veins and is made of two pieces:

- A reinforced tube that bypasses blockage in veins.
- A dialysis graft that is sewn to an artery and can be needled and used for dialysis.

### Am I suitable for a HeRo graft?

The HeRO graft maybe appropriate for you if you have:

A blockage or narrowing of a major vein **and** are dependent on a vascular catheter, in particular if you have arm swelling or the catheter is not working properly.

**Or**

Have a pre-existing fistula or graft that is not working properly or is causing arm swelling.



## Patient Information

### Advantages over vascular catheters:

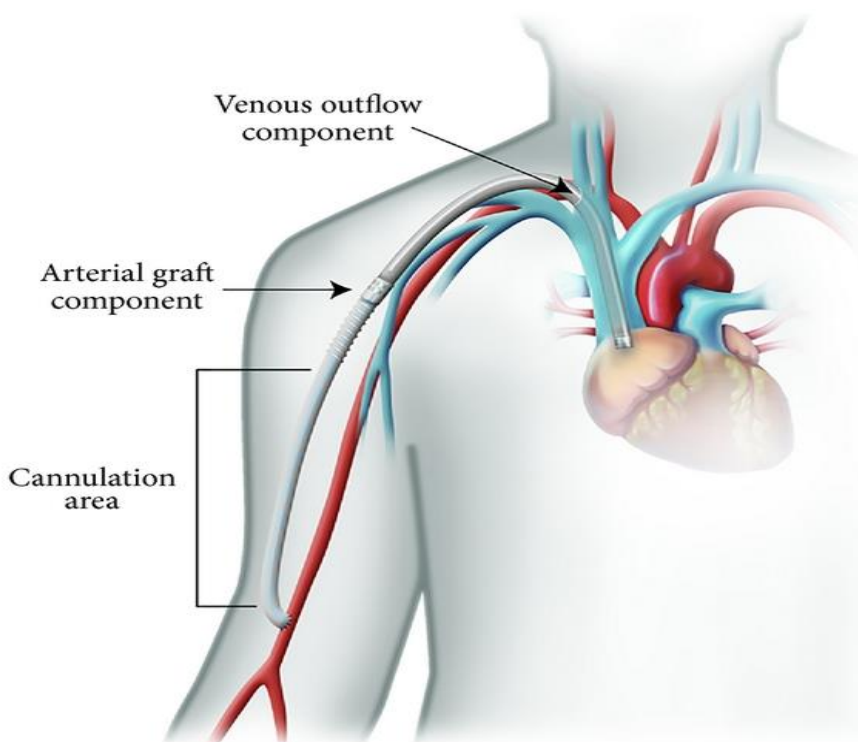
- Lower infection rate.
- Better dialysis adequacy.
- Improved quality of life.
- No uncomfortable tubes outside the body.

### Possible complications:

- Bleeding
- Thrombosis (formation of a blood clot that blocks the graft)
- Haematoma
- Infection
- Cardiac arrhythmia
- May require further intervention to maintain patency of graft.
- Steal syndrome

### What does HeRO graft look like after it is implanted?

The HeRO graft is implanted completely under the skin (image below) and is accessed like a standard graft.



## Patient Information

### **When can my graft be used?**

This is dependent on individual patient need. However the graft can be used if needed within 24 hours.

### **Further information**

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please contact Access Nurses on 024 7696 8307.

### **General Advice and Consent**

Most of your questions may have been answered by this leaflet but remember that this is only the starting point for discussion with your healthcare team.

Before any doctor, nurse or therapist examines or treats you, they must seek your consent or permission. In order to make a decision you need to have the information from health professionals about the treatment or investigation which is being offered to you. You should always ask them more questions if you do not understand or if you want more information.

The information you receive should be about your condition, the alternatives available to you, and whether it carries risks as well as benefits.

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

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#### **Document History**

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