

Patient Information

Removal of your vascular tunnelled line

What is this?

You have been booked to have your tunnelled line removed following your clinical treatment.

Why would I need this procedure?

Any intravenous line is normally removed after your treatment is finished or when it is clinically appropriate to do so. It may also be removed if you have an infection which involves the line or if there is any accidental damage to the line itself. You could also have had your line blocked from a thrombus or blood clot. They are removed timewise on an individual basis.

What are the symptoms that have led to me having this procedure?

The only symptoms you may have had may have been reddening of the skin around the line site if your line had been infected. You may have had a temperature and rigors.

What are the alternatives?

There are no alternatives at this time. A line is always removed when not needed.

What are the potential risks and side effects?

These can include minor bleeding after the line is removed and mild discomfort or bruising around the exit site.

What are the expected benefits of treatment?

The end of your treatment.

What should I do before I come into hospital?

You must try to have someone to take you home as you may be unable to drive safely. You are expected to rest the arm on the same side and not exert yourself too much. Also local anaesthetic can make some people light headed.

Where will the procedure take place?

Mainly we remove vascular lines on the wards. We may also remove them within one of our theatre suites. A lot will depend on each persons needs.

Will I have an anaesthetic?

We take lines out primarily under local anaesthetic and as a day case patient.

How will I feel afterwards?

You should feel fine but some people can feel light headed. It depends on the patients response to the injection and procedure.

How long will I be in hospital?

You will only be with us for about an hour. This includes the line removal time. You may need a cup of tea post procedure and rest for a while.

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What should I do when I go home?

You may go home as soon as you feel fit to do so. You will be given some spare dressings and advice about pain relief. Take pain killers if you feel any discomfort either paracetamol or your own medication. Try not to lift your arm or carry heavy items for at least 48 hours to avoid any undue bleeding or bruising around the line exit site.

If you have a stitch placed across the wound it normally will be a self dissolving stitch which will be gone in about 28 days. You may shower as normal.

How soon will I be able to resume normal activities?

This will be up to you it depends on your job. As mentioned though don't lift or carry heavy items.

Will I have to come back to hospital?

No, unless you have another appointment in the near future.

When can I return to work?

You can return to work the next day but be mindful of any lifting and carrying for 48 hours. If in doubt please go to your GP if you feel you need a sick certificate. You can self certificate for seven days.

Consent

Although you consent for this treatment, you may at any time after that withdraw such consent. Please discuss this with your medical team.

Sources of information

Royal Marsden manual.

Important information

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) – details below.

Hand hygiene

The trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

This information is available in alternative formats such as large print or electronically on request. Interpreters can also be booked. Please

Patient Information

contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) offices, found in the main reception areas:

Conquest Hospital

Email: **palsh@esht.nhs.uk** - Telephone: **01424 758090**

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Email: **palse@esht.nhs.uk** - Telephone: **01323 435886**

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Reference

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The directorate group that have agreed this patient information leaflet:

Anaesthetics and Surgery

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