

Vaxcel[®] Plus Chronic Dialysis Catheter

A Patient's Guide



Navilyst
Medical

Caring for your Vaxcel® Plus Chronic Dialysis Catheter

This pamphlet provides some answers to questions you may have about your catheter and how to care for it at home. Remember to call your doctor or nurse with any specific questions and always follow the instructions that they give you.

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Information about your Vaxcel® Plus Chronic Dialysis Catheter is available by calling the Navilyst Medical Vascular Access Information Line 800.513.6876

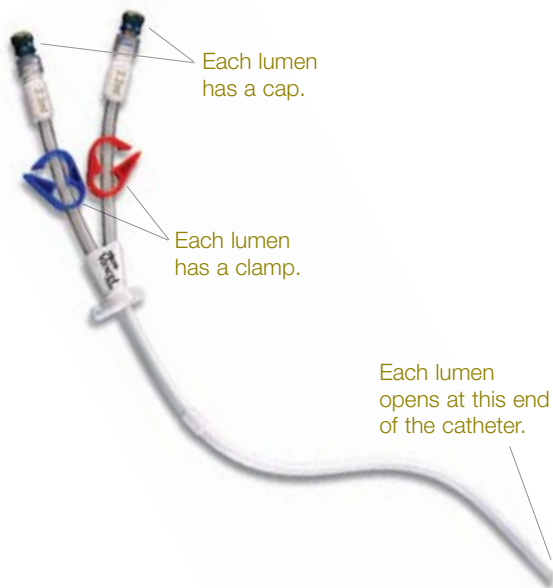
Why do I need a dialysis catheter?

Normally, our kidneys filter waste from our blood. When your kidneys are not functioning properly, these harmful wastes build up. A dialysis machine can be used to cleanse these wastes from your blood. Your Vaxcel® Plus Catheter is used to connect you to this dialysis machine.

The catheter is a hollow, soft tube that has two openings or lumens—one lumen to send your blood to the dialysis machine and the other to return the cleansed blood back to your body. Each lumen has a clamp and a cap. The clamp is kept closed and the cap is on whenever the catheter is not being used.

Your Vaxcel Plus Chronic Dialysis Catheter...

a hollow, flexible tube which has two openings or lumens.



How is the Vaxcel® Plus Catheter inserted?

The Vaxcel Plus Catheter is inserted into a blood vessel called a vein that directs blood back to your heart. Most often, a vein in the neck or chest is chosen, but your doctor will decide what is best for you.

After your skin has been cleaned to remove germs, an anesthetic will be used to numb the area where the catheter will be inserted. You may be given other anesthesia or medicine to help you relax.

One end of the catheter will be inserted through your skin into the vein. The rest of the catheter will be formed into a curve and placed under your skin in what is called the *tunnel*. Where the catheter comes out of your skin is called the *exit site*. A dressing will be placed over this area and an x-ray will be taken to make sure the catheter is in the best position.

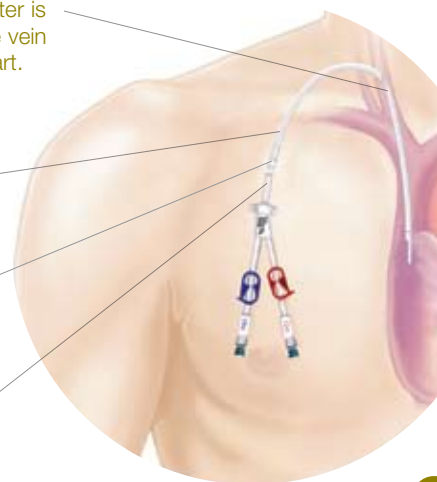
Under your skin near the exit site, you may feel a small bump on the catheter in the tunnel. This is called the *catheter cuff*, which helps to hold your catheter in place.

This part of the catheter is inserted into the large vein that leads to your heart.

This part of the catheter remains in a tunnel under your skin.

The catheter cuff feels like a small bump.

This is your exit site which will be covered with a dressing.



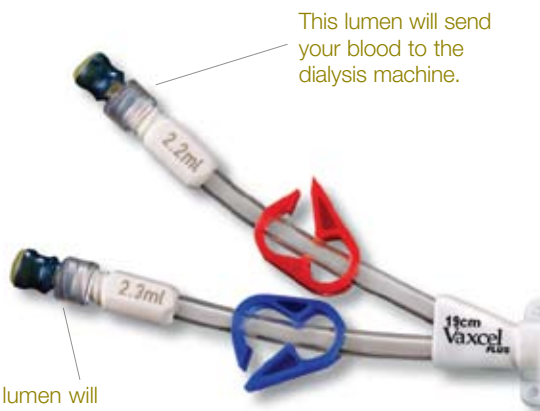
How is the Vaxcel® Plus Catheter used?

Once your catheter is in place, you can begin dialysis treatments right away.



Each time you go for your dialysis treatments, the nurse will clean the end (called the *hub*) of both catheter lumens. Your nurse will inject a solution to flush your catheter and then will connect each lumen to the dialysis machine. One lumen will send your blood to the machine and the other will return it to your body.

Dialysis treatments can take three to four hours to complete.



This lumen will send your blood to the dialysis machine.

This lumen will bring your blood back from the dialysis machine.

How do I care for my Vaxcel® Plus Catheter?

Your doctor or nurse will give you specific instructions about how to care for your catheter, but you should follow some important general rules:

- Do not swim or shower.
- Do not soak your dressing while bathing.
- If your dressing becomes wet or loose, change it. If you cannot change it or need assistance, then notify your healthcare provider immediately.
- To clean the skin around your exit site, use either 70% isopropyl alcohol-based solution or aqueous-based povidone iodine solution. Be sure to let the area dry before you apply your dressing.
- Do NOT use acetone on any part of the catheter tubing. Exposure to this agent may cause catheter damage.
- Carry your Vaxcel Plus Catheter travel card with you at all times.

Also...

Check your catheter and exit site every day. Your exit site should heal in about a week and you should not notice any oozing or drainage from this area. If you do, call your doctor or nurse. You should also call if you notice any redness, swelling, irritation or soreness at the exit site or along the tunnel.

It is important to keep the clamps closed and the caps on at all times. If you notice a leak in your catheter, check that your clamps are closed and your caps are on tightly. Call your doctor or nurse right away.

Be careful not to damage your catheter. Don't use scissors to remove your old dressing and make sure it is always securely fastened to your skin. Call your doctor or nurse immediately if your catheter does get damaged.

Commonly asked questions

Q How long will I have a dialysis catheter?

A Your doctor or nurse can answer that question. Some people may need it for only a few days, others for several years.

Q Will my body reject the catheter?

A That is not likely. Your Vaxcel® Plus Catheter is made of materials that are not likely to cause any reaction.

Q Will my catheter cause any pain?

A You may feel some soreness for a day or two after your catheter is inserted. This is normal. However, after that, the catheter should cause you no pain.

Q Will my insurance company cover the cost of my catheter?

A Because coverage varies, you should check with your insurance company to be sure they cover your catheter and treatment.

Q Can the Vaxcel Plus Catheter be removed if I don't need it any more?

A Yes, it can be removed by your doctor. It is often done in the out-patient department, using only local anesthesia.

Q Are there any activities that I shouldn't do with the catheter in place?

A You should check with your doctor or nurse about any activity restrictions that they recommend for you.

Q What happens if my Vaxcel® Plus Catheter stops working properly?

A There are ways to treat problems that may occur. Your doctor will first determine the cause of the problem and what should be done to correct it. If the problem cannot be corrected, the catheter can be replaced.

Q I've heard doctors and nurses refer to my catheter as a "Hickman®" Catheter or "PermCath®" Catheter. What does this mean?

A Hickman and PermCath are brand names of other dialysis catheters and some people refer to all dialysis catheters by those names.



TRAVEL CARD

Always carry your Vaxcel® Plus Catheter Travel Card with you.

This card has important information about your catheter that healthcare providers will need to care for you.

Fill out your personal information in the areas provided. Your Travel Card is conveniently sized to fit in a wallet.



26 Forest Street
Marlborough, MA 01752
Customer Service: 800.833.9973

PATIENT INFORMATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TEL (H): _____ (W): _____

PHYSICIAN CONTACT INFORMATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TEL (OFFICE): _____

VAXCEL® PLUS DATE PLACED: _____

CHRONIC DIALYSIS CATHETER LENGTH: _____

CATHETER LOT NUMBER: _____

DIALYSIS RX: _____

Clean exit site with 70% isopropyl alcohol-based solution or aqueous-based povidone iodine solution. Do NOT use acetone on any part of the catheter tubing. Exposure to this agent may cause catheter damage.



Navilyst Medical, Inc.
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www.navilystmedical.com

*For more information, call
800.833.9973*

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