



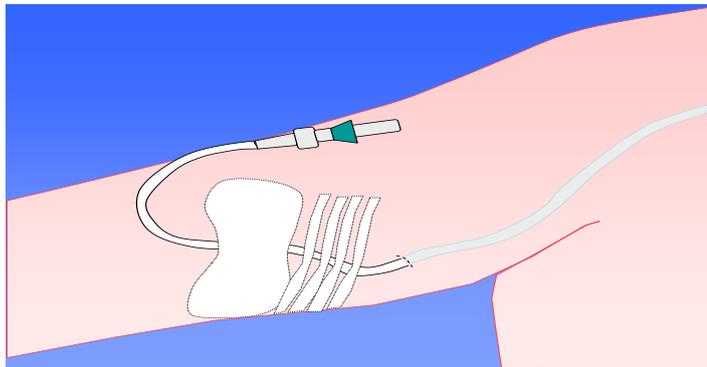
What is a Midline?

Information for patients who are going to have a midline inserted

What is a midline?

A midline is a very fine, plastic tube, about 20cm long that is inserted into a vein in your arm. The midline will be used to give you intravenous treatments and for blood tests to be taken. The midline can stay in for several weeks or months if required.

An experienced nurse/doctor from the hospital will insert your midline. This can be done in one of the day wards or in the radiology dept. The procedure only takes about 30 minutes but you will need to plan on being with us for about 1 hour. This will allow us time to tell you all about the line and how to look after it.



What your midline will look like

How is the midline inserted?

The nurse/doctor will explain the procedure to you, including the benefits and risks and allow time for you to ask questions. You will be asked to sign a consent form if you agree to the procedure.

You will be asked to lay flat on the bed or couch with one pillow only. The nurse/doctor will position your arm at a right angle so that he/she can access your upper arm easily.

The nurse/doctor will use an ultrasound machine to help visualise the veins in your arm more clearly. The nurse/doctor will prepare the equipment; wash his/her hands and put on a surgical gown and gloves. This is to minimise the risk of bacteria being spread during the procedure.

After injecting some local anaesthetic into the skin, a needle, followed by a fine guide wire and then a plastic tube called an introducer will be inserted into the vein in your upper arm.

The nurse/doctor will then remove the guide wire and thread the midline through the introducer into the vein. Once the midline has been inserted to the correct length, the introducer is removed and some adhesive dressings will be applied to the midline to secure it in position. The midline can be used immediately after it has been inserted.

Benefits of a midline:

- A midline allows good intravenous access for taking blood samples and giving you certain treatments such as IV antibiotics
- It may allow you to have treatment at home or in your local health centre or as an outpatient rather than being an in-patient in hospital

Risks associated with a Midline:

- **Incorrect position of midline:** On occasion, the end of the midline does not sit in the correct place in the vein and this may require it to be reinserted
- **Nerve pain:** Although rare, you could experience some nerve pain in your arm or hand during the insertion procedure. If this occurs, it should disappear very quickly after repositioning of the needle
- **Thrombosis:** You are at risk of developing a thrombosis (clot) around or near to the midline. Symptoms include pain in your arm, shoulder or chest, swelling of the arm or altered colour of the arm
- **Mechanical phlebitis:** You may develop some redness and tenderness along the skin above where the midline has been inserted. This can easily be treated
- **Infection:** You could develop an infection at the site where the midline has entered the skin or inside the midline. Symptoms include redness and/or pus at the site of the midline and/or having a high temperature and/or flu-like symptoms
- **Movement of midline:** If you pull the midline, it could come out, either partially or fully

Who to contact

If you have a problem or concern about any aspect of your midline, please contact a member of the hospital team looking after you.

They can be contacted on the number below:

Name: Telephone:

About this leaflet:

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If you have feedback regarding the accuracy of the information contained in this leaflet, or if you would like a list of references used to develop this leaflet, please email pals@dchft.nhs.uk



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