



13. Care after 4-6 Weeks:

- 13.1 Fistula is ready for use. To prevent infection, always wash both hands up to the elbow with warm water and soap before hemodialysis.
- 13.2 On completion of hemodialysis, apply pressure to the needle site with a sterile gauze pad until bleeding stops. If it starts to bleed again after returning home, calmly apply pressure to the puncture site with a gauze pad until bleeding stops. The pad can be removed the next day (do not apply non-allergic tapes tightly to the needle site).
- 13.3 Inform health care professionals prior to surgical surgeries (such as tooth extraction) so antibiotics can be given to prevent infection of AV fistula.
- 13.4 If there is symptoms on the fistula arm, such as redness, a feeling of excess warmth, swelling or numbness, inform the renal staff immediately for early treatment.
- 13.5 Check the fistula at different times of day (morning, afternoon and night). If thrills have weakened, inform the renal staff immediately. If blood flow is too low, the fistula will not be used for hemodialysis. Instead, a temporary venous dialysis catheter will be inserted in the internal jugular vein or femoral vein for hemodialysis until blood flow of the fistula becomes normal or a new fistula has been created and matured.
- 13.6 Maintain good personal hygiene. Use warm water to clean your body and the access arm. If the fistula arm becomes dirty, clean it with non-corrosive soap immediately.

Risk and Complication

- 1. Stenosis of fistula, leading to decreased blood flow or thrombosis
- 2. Thrombosis of the fistula
- 3. Ischemia of the hand
- 4. Swelling of the hand
- 5. Aneurysm and pseudo-aneurysm formation
- 6. Infection of the fistula
- 7. Heart failure

Disclaimer

This leaflet only provides general information pertaining to this operation / procedure. While common risks and complications are described, the list is not exhaustive, and the degree of risk could also vary between patients. Please contact your doctor for detailed information and specific enquiry.

Reference

- 1. Smart patient website by Hospital Authority: Arteriovenous, AV Fistula (2017)
- 2. Smart patient website by Hospital Authority: End Stage Renal Failure Palliative Treatment (2017)
- 3. Hull J E, Jennings W C, Cooper R I, Waheed U, Schaefer M E, Narayan R, (2018). The Pivotal Multicenter Trial of Ultrasound-Guided Percutaneous Arteriovenous Fistula Creation for Hemodialysis Access. Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology, 29(2), 149-158

Patient's Label

Patient Name: _____

Hospital No: _____

Episode No: _____

Patient's Signature: _____ Date: _____