



What is a PICC Line Insertion?

A PICC Line Insertion is when a thin soft tube is placed into a large vein in your arm, this guides a catheter up into the main vein near the heart where blood flows quickly. This procedure is performed so that patients can receive medicine and fluids like an intravenous line (IV). A PICC line can stay in place for as long as needed.

What should I expect when I have my PICC Line Insertion?

The risks and possible complications will be discussed with you prior to this procedure and with your acceptance we will proceed. You will be asked to lie on an examination bed with the area of clinical interest exposed.

The area will be cleaned with a hospital grade antiseptic wash and then scanned using the relevant radiological equipment. By locating this area under ultrasound guidance we can ensure precision in puncturing the vein.

A small amount of local anaesthetic will be administered into this area. Once the area is anaesthetised a PICC line (thin soft tube) is placed into a large vein in your arm and a catheter is guided up into the main vein near the heart where blood flows quickly. An x-ray is then performed to make sure that the catheter is in the correct position. This procedure generally takes 1-1.5 hours. Most patients feel little or no discomfort during this procedure. Once the procedure is complete our Radiologist will discuss post-procedural care with you.

Are there any risk or side effects from my procedure?

As with all medical procedures there are risks. Your doctor has sent you for this procedure knowing that it is more beneficial than the very low risk associated with it. These risks and possible complications will be discussed with you prior to the procedure.

How do I prepare for my PICC Line Insertion?

When you phone to arrange your appointment one of our friendly reception staff will advise you of the preparation and requirements of this procedure. We will also need to know if you are currently on blood thinners such as Warfarin or Aspirin.

Blood thinning medications that you are currently taking should be ceased prior to this procedure. This should be discussed with your Health Care Professional prior to making your appointment.

(Aspirin and Warfarin for 5 days, Plavix for 7 days and Iscover for 8 days). If you have had a heart valve replacement, it may be necessary to take antibiotics before the procedure. Please discuss this with your Cardiologist/Cardiac Surgeon and take antibiotics as directed.

Things to bring along to my appointment:

- Previous films for area of clinical interest.
- Medicare or Department of Veteran Affairs card (as we bulk bill all eligible Medicare services).
- Referral (this is a legal requirement).

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