Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) catheter insertion
Information for patients
Why do I need a PD catheter?
You need a PD catheter so that you can carry out Peritoneal Dialysis.

What is a PD catheter?
A PD catheter (sometimes called a Tenckhoff catheter) is a special tube that is inserted into your abdominal cavity (space around the organs within your tummy). Some of the catheter will be on the outside of your body. The PD catheter is soft to touch and should feel quite comfortable against your body. Special cuffs help to keep the catheter inside your body (you won’t be able to feel them); these also reduce the risk of infection.

You will need to have an operation to insert your PD catheter.
What do I need to do before the operation?

You will need to have a pre-operative assessment in the Renal Unit. This is to check you are safe to have your operation. At the pre-operative assessment you will have an ECG (test on your heart), physical assessment, blood test and we will check your medications. We will also give you more information about your operation.

Please make sure you have a supply of paracetamol at home, ready for when you come out of hospital.

What happens during the operation?

The operation is usually carried out under a general anaesthetic (you will be asleep).

There are two different operations for inserting the catheter. Your surgeon will have suggested the operation that is best for you.

1. **Laparoscopic insertion**
   
   3-4 small cuts will be made into your abdomen (each about 7-12mm in length). The surgeon will then use a laparoscopic camera (a very small camera at the end of a thin tube) to look into your abdomen. The PD catheter will then be placed into your abdominal cavity.

2. **Mini laparotomy**
   
   A small cut will be made 4-5cm below your belly button. The surgeon will insert the PD catheter into your abdominal cavity, through this opening.

In both the operations, fluid is flushed in and out of your abdomen to make sure the catheter is working. Dressings are then placed over the operation sites and where the tube comes out of your body. Both operations take about half an hour, with a further two hours in the recovery unit.
Items to bring into hospital with you

- medications in their original packaging
- dressing gown
- a book, magazine or electronic reader/tablet
- an overnight bag with night clothes and toiletries (just in case you need to stay the night in hospital).

What happens on the day of the operation?

You will be admitted to the Day Surgery Unit at the Churchill Hospital. A nurse, surgeon and anaesthetist will see you and a PD nurse will mark the position for the catheter on your abdomen. You will be asked to sign a consent form (if you have not done so already) and then your nurse will take you to theatre.

After the operation you will be taken to the recovery unit until you are fully awake. You will then return to the Day Surgery Unit. You should be able to go home 3-4 hours after your operation. To be able to go home on the same day, you must have a competent person who can stay with you to take care of you for 24 hours.

Taking care at home

There may be some bruising on the skin of your abdomen, but this will soon disappear. The dressings must be kept dry, so avoid bathing and showering for at least 2 weeks after your operation. Your dressings will be changed by a PD nurse every week for the first 2-3 weeks. This will be done at your local PD unit. Please let us know if you need transport to and from the hospital.

When you are discharged you will be given a pack which contains some medication (laxatives) and dressings. We will give you advice on how to use these.
Driving

You should not drive for at least 5 days after a laparoscopic insertion or 2-3 weeks after a mini laparotomy. You may want to check with your insurance company when you are allowed to drive.

A way to tell whether you can drive safely is if you are able to perform an emergency stop comfortably. We suggest that you get into your car while it is parked to see if you can perform an emergency stop by stamping on the brake. If you feel you don’t want to do this and/or it hurts your abdomen, leave it for 2 days and try again.

Going back to work

Most people take 3-4 weeks off work. If you are a manual worker you will need a longer time to recover. You must not lift any heavy items for 3 weeks.

Side effects of a PD catheter insertion

- The catheter can move into the wrong place inside your abdomen and the fluid will not drain in or out (occurs in about 1 in 10 patients).
- There is a risk of developing an infection (less than 1 in 150 patients).
- Fluid may leak out of the operation sites (rare).
- Anaesthetic side effects, i.e. vomiting (rare).

Unfortunately there are some circumstances when your PD catheter may not work. This is not common and may be because you have had a previous operation on your abdomen. The majority of people have no problem during or after the procedure and have a successful working PD catheter.
When will I start PD?

About 2-4 weeks after the operation. This may be longer if you have had a hernia repair performed at the same time as the catheter insertion. PD training will take place in your home and takes between 3 and 5 days.

What else will I need before starting PD?

Your PD nurse will supply you with a PD training booklet at your post operative dressing change. You could try to make sure you also have:

• a wipe clean tray (melamine)
• bathroom scales (digital, with measurements that go up in 0.2kg)
• a hook to hang up the dialysis bag if you are on Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis. You will be advised where to put this.
• a work top/cupboard for the APD machine (Automated Peritoneal Dialysis)
• space for your PD supplies, which will be delivered monthly (about 40 boxes which are each about the size of a small microwave).

Further information

If you have any further questions, please talk to your PD nurse or the PD nurses in Oxford.
Contact details

**Oxford PD unit**
01865 225 792 (answer phone available)
(8.30am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday)
Email: pd.team@ouh.nhs.uk (between 8.30am and 4.30pm)

**Wycombe PD unit**
01494 426 349
(7.45am to 3.45pm, Monday to Friday)

**Swindon PD unit**
01793 605 288
(8.30am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday)

**Milton Keynes PD unit**
01908 996 495
(8.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday)

**Renal Ward Churchill hospital**
01865 225 780
24 hours, including weekends and bank holidays

Useful websites

**National Kidney Federation – UK**
Website: www.kidney.org.uk
Search for ‘PD’.

**Kidney Patient Guide**
Website: www.kidneypatientguide.org.uk/pd.php
Information for patients with kidney failure and those who care for them.

**NHS Choices**
Website: www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Dialysis/Pages/Introduction.aspx

**Oxford Kidney Unit**
Website: www.ouh.nhs.uk/oku/
If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALS@ouh.nhs.uk**