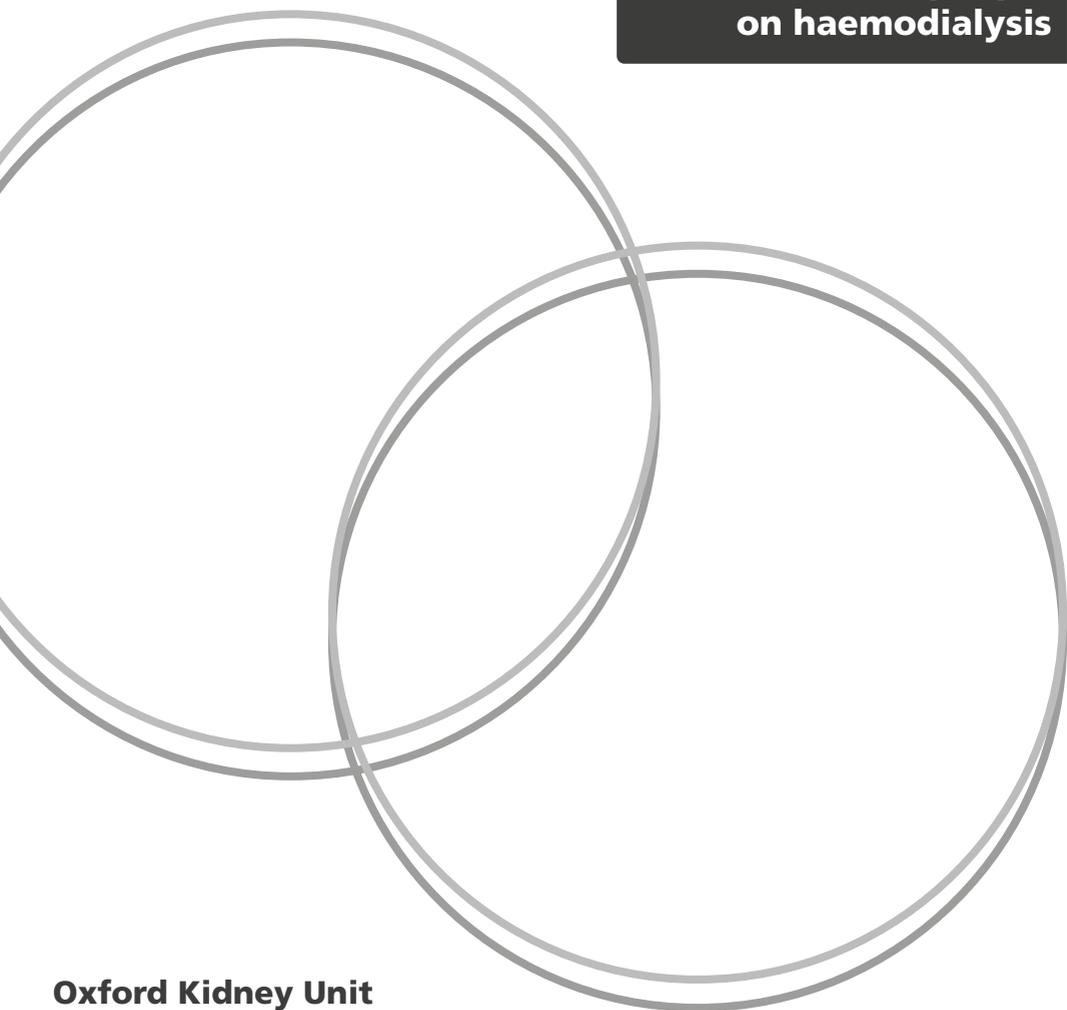


Venous needle dislodgement in Haemodialysis

**Information for people
on haemodialysis**



We have written this leaflet to provide you with information about venous needle dislodgement. Venous needle dislodgement is when the venous needle in your fistula or graft falls out whilst you are on haemodialysis dialysis. If there is anything else you need to know after reading this leaflet, please speak to your dialysis nurse.

To enable you to dialyse (if you have a fistula or graft) a dialysis nurse will insert two needles into your fistula or graft. The bottom needle (nearest your hand) is called the arterial needle and the top one (nearest your shoulder) is the venous needle. Blood leaves your body to be cleaned by the haemodialysis machine through the arterial needle and is returned to your body via the venous needle.

If you have a loop graft, your dialysis nurse will show you where the arterial and venous needles are placed. (If you are not sure whether your graft is looped or straight, please ask your dialysis nurse.)

What is venous needle dislodgment?

Venous needle dislodgment is when your venous needle accidentally comes out of your arm whilst you are on dialysis. This can happen if the needle is pulled or not taped correctly.

Why do I need to know about venous needle dislodgement?

During haemodialysis, the haemodialysis machine controls how much blood leaves your body every minute, using a pump. If the venous needle comes out of your arm during dialysis, blood will spurt from the fistula and machine very fast. This could create a life-threatening situation. The haemodialysis machine will continue to remove your blood (through the arterial needle) but will be unable to return the blood to your body.

For example, if the pump speed is 300 millilitres per minute, you would lose nearly a pint in a minute.

Venous needle dislodgment can therefore be potentially life-threatening. This is why it is important to reduce the risk of venous needle dislodgement by correctly taping the needles and the lines.

How can my dialysis nurse reduce the risk of venous needle dislodgment?

The risk of venous needle dislodgement is very small, if your needles and lines are taped correctly. The following method (the Chevron method; see picture) is the safest:

1. After the needle has been inserted, a thick piece of tape is placed across the top of the needle.
2. A thin piece of tape is then wrapped around the needle into a chevron or butterfly (a 'V' shape).



3. A thick piece of tape is placed across the needle to totally secure it.
4. Finally, your lines are taped onto your wrist or shoulder and then secured loosely onto your machine, so that some movement is allowed with minimal risk of them being pulled out.

Only certain types of tape are used to anchor the needles (Micropore is the preferred tape to use for this). Please let us know if you are allergic to any medical tape.

Your dialysis nurse will regularly check your fistula or graft when completing our 'intentional rounding'. Intentional rounding is when your dialysis nurse checks your blood pressure, the arterial and venous pressure levels, and records these in your dialysis folder.

What can I do to help prevent venous needle dislodgment?

- You should be very careful when you move around during haemodialysis and should be conscious of where your lines are.
- If possible, leave your fistula arm visible and free from blankets, as your dialysis nurse won't need to disturb you to check your needles if you are sleeping.

What should I do to prevent venous needle dislodgement if I am on home haemodialysis?

Before you start dialysing at home the dialysis nurses will show you the correct method for taping your needles and lines, to reduce the risk of venous needle dislodgment. They will also advise you how often to check your needle sites while you are dialysing.

Further information

Main Haemodialysis unit

Churchill Hospital

Telephone: 01865 225 807

Email: renal_dialysisunit@oxnet.nhs.uk

Tarver Haemodialysis Unit

Churchill Hospital

Monday to Saturday, 7am to 7.30pm

Telephone: 01865 225 695

Email: renaltarverunit@oxnet.nhs.uk

Milton Keynes Haemodialysis Unit

Milton Keynes University Hospital

Monday to Saturday, 7am to 7.30pm

Telephone: 01908 996 496

Email: renalunitmk@oxnet.nhs.uk

Stoke Mandeville Haemodialysis Unit

Monday to Saturday, 7am to 7.30pm

Telephone: 01296 316 996

Email: RenalUnitSM@ouhnhksuk.onmicrosoft.com

Horton Renal Unit

Horton General Hospital

Monday to Saturday, 7am to 7.30pm

Telephone: 01295 229 811 or 01295 224 130

Email: renalunitbanbury@oxnet.nhs.uk

High Wycombe Haemodialysis Unit

Monday to Saturday, 7am to 7.30pm

Telephone: 01494 426 347

Email: renalunithw@oxnet.nhs.uk

Swindon Haemodialysis Unit

Monday to Saturday, 7am to 7.30pm

Telephone: 01793 605 286

Email: renalunitsw@oxnet.nhs.uk

Whitehouse Dialysis Unit

Monday to Saturday, 7am to 7.30pm

Telephone: 01295 228 552 or 01295 228 553

Email: whdu@oxnet.nhs.uk

Useful websites

Oxford Kidney Unit

Lots of information about the Oxford Kidney Unit for patients and carers.

Website: www.ouh.nhs.uk/oku

UK Kidney Association

Patient information leaflets and advice

Website: www.ukkidney.org/patients/information-resources/patient-information-leaflets

Kidney Patient Guide

Information for patients with kidney failure and those who care for them.

Website: www.kidneypatientguide.org.uk

Kidney Care UK

A charity which has lots of practical support and information for people with kidney disease.

Website: www.kidneycareuk.org

Six Counties Kidney Patients Association

The SCKPA is run for patients by patients or family members.

They offer support to people suffering from kidney disease or who are on dialysis. They work closely with the Oxford Kidney Unit and have branches in Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, and Milton Keynes, and parts of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Berkshire.

Website: www.sixcountieskpa.org.uk

National Kidney Federation

A charity which has lots of practical support and information for people with kidney disease.

Website: www.kidney.org.uk

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
www.ouh.nhs.uk/information



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