



## What is a Tunnelled Cuffed Central Venous Catheter (CVC)?

A tunnelled cuffed central venous catheter is a long, soft silicone tube that is usually placed in the upper chest wall. It goes into a vein in the neck and is gently moved into the right side of the heart. It is a type of central venous access device and allows easy and reliable access to your child's bloodstream. It can also be called a double lumen Hickman line or single lumen Broviac line.

## How is a Tunnelled Cuffed CVC Inserted?

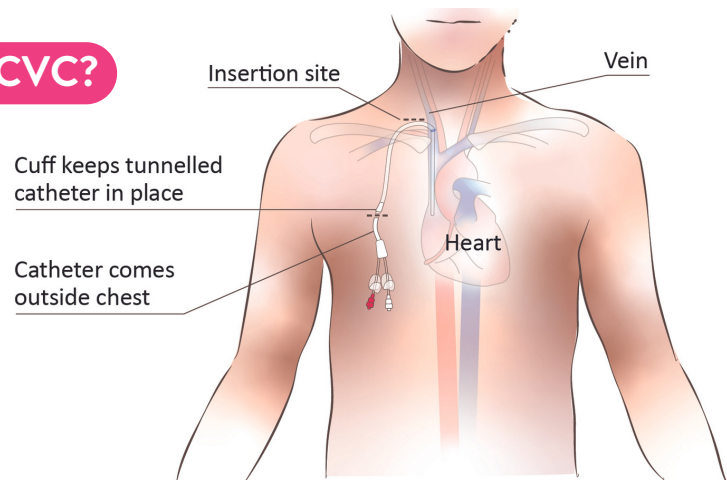
The procedure is done under general anaesthesia in the operating room. There are two small cuts made - one on the chest and one on the neck. The outside of the catheter usually sits on the upper part of the chest - this part of the catheter is known as the 'lumens' and are access points. Once the tunnelled cuffed CVC is in, x-ray is used to check the catheter is in the right place.

### Following Surgery

The area where the catheter has been inserted may feel uncomfortable - this will pass after some time and your nurse can give your child pain relief as needed. The insertion site should be checked for swelling, bleeding, redness, ooze and pain.

## Why does my child need a Tunnelled Cuffed CVC?

Tunnelled cuffed CVC's are used when long-term IV treatment is needed and it can stay in for months to years if working well.



## Care and Maintenance

- When the catheter is not being used it will be 'hep-locked'. Hep-locking is when a medicine called heparinised saline is placed in the catheter to prevent blood from clotting in the catheter
- Every 7 days the nurse will check the tunnelled cuffed CVC to make sure it is working well and place new heparinised saline in the catheter
- The needle free connectors are changed every 4 days when in use and every 7 days if the tunnelled cuffed CVC has not been used
- The dressing is changed every 7 days. This involves carefully taking off the old dressing, cleaning the exit site and putting on a new dressing. **The loop should be in place at all times**
- If your child has a bath, keep the tunnelled cuffed CVC dry and out of the water
- Care should be taken when dressing your child to ensure the catheter is not pulled

## Changes in your child's activity

- Your doctor will let you know when your child can go back to doing normal activities like school or day care
- Tunnelled cuffed CVCs should be kept dry at all times and swimming is to be avoided
- Contact sport should be avoided – please seek further advice from your doctor

## Potential Complications

- Blockage in the tunnelled cuffed CVC – this may be fixed with and anti-clotting medication. If the catheter remains blocked it may need to be removed
- Infection – monitor your child's temperatures and check the insertion site for signs of swelling, redness or pain

## When and how is a Tunnelled Cuffed CVC removed?

A tunnelled cuffed CVC can stay in for months to years and is taken out at the end of treatment or when it is no longer needed. Removal is a surgical procedure, and your child will have this done in theatre with a general anaesthetic – your doctor will advise you on this when the time comes.

### If the catheter breaks:

Immediately clamp the catheter between the break and the body with the clamp from your safety pack. If you are unable to clamp the catheter, fold the catheter on itself and tape the fold together to work as the clamp. Contact your homecare nurse, local hospital or ward straight away.

### If the dressing starts to lift or come off:

Contact your homecare nurse for a dressing change.

### If the catheter is pulled out:

Immediately apply pressure to the insertion site on the neck and the exit site in the chest and contact your local hospital or ward immediately.

### If the loop comes out:

Cover it with a dressing from the safety pack and contact your homecare nurse for a dressing change. The safety pack should include sterile gauze, a clamp, a dressing and any additional supplies specific to your child's care.

## Please take your child's temperature each day

If your child's temperature is above 38°C, please notify the Homecare Nurse, Nurse Specialist, the ward or Starship Children's Emergency Department. Oncology patients to inform ward 27A/B or contact local shared care centre immediately.



### Questions and Additional Notes

### Contact Number(s)