



Taking care of a port catheter

P a t i e n t I n f o r m a t i o n

Flush the port catheter every three months with a physiological salt solution (NaCl 0.9%) during a period when it is not being used.

FLUSHING EVERY THREE MONTHS

Procedure (home care information):

The port is inserted using a 20G diameter Huber needle, which is used as standard. The length of the needle may vary depending on the thickness of the subcutaneous tissue (standard length is 15 mm Surecan®).



- Be sure your hands are clean and disinfect them using hand alcohol.
- Wear germ free disposable gloves.
- Palpate the skin above the port catheter to ascertain where you should puncture the skin.
- Before puncturing the skin rub it for 15 seconds with a chlorhexidine solution in alcohol (preferably 2% chlorhexidine in alcohol) to disinfect it.
- Whilst the disinfectant is drying, you can purge the Huber needle with a syringe containing 10 ml NaCl 0.9%.
- Hold the port between your thumb and index finger without touching the injection site (“no touch” technique).
- Insert the port vertically. Make sure that the needle is correctly positioned down to the base of the port.
- Check whether you can draw blood (blood in the extension line).
- Flush the port catheter in a pulsating motion with 10 ml* NaCl 0.9%. Close under positive pressure: close the clamp whilst the final 3 ml is slowly injected.
- After removing the needle cover the puncture opening immediately with a sterile, absorbent dressing.

* 5 ml for an infant or child weighing less than 10 kg.

Available needle lengths:

- Surecan® Safety: 12 mm – 15 mm – 20 mm – 25 mm

THINGS TO REMEMBER

FOR CARE PROVIDERS AND HOME CARE PATIENTS

- ✕ The port catheter can be flushed by a home nurse (who operates independently or via a specific organisation) or a general practitioner. They will have the necessary equipment to puncture and flush the port.
- ✕ Ask the doctor in charge of your treatment at the hospital for a catheter flushing prescription (every three months).

CONTACT DATA

If you have problems with the catheter (e.g. a puncturing related problem or it is impossible to flush the catheter) or you require additional information, you can contact the following services during office hours:

- nursing staff of the intravenous catheter care reference team, tel. 016 34 08 64 (08.30 - 16.00 hrs), katheterzorg@uzleuven.be
- surgical oncology secretariat, tel. 016 34 68 32 or 016 34 68 31 or 016 34 68 29

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Design and implementation

This text was written by the nurses and doctors of the intravenous catheter care reference team in cooperation with the communications department.

You can also find this brochure at www.uzleuven.be/en/brochure/700604.

Please send comments or suggestions relating to this brochure to communicatie@uzleuven.be.

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