Peritoneal dialysis catheter: how do I take care of it?

azdelta
Uw ziekenhuis.

Dear patient,

Due to your greatly reduced kidney function, it is necessary for you to begin renal replacement therapy in the near future, if it has not already begun.

If you choose peritoneal dialysis, an access route into the body must be made with a dialysis catheter, i.e. a tube in the abdomen. You will find more information about what this entails in this leaflet. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Peritoneal Dialysis Clinic. You will find the contact details on the back of this leaflet.

The Department of Nephrology

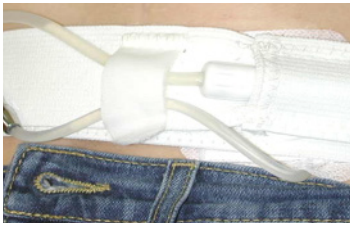
1. Description

A peritoneal dialysis catheter is a flexible tube that is placed deep in the abdomen during keyhole surgery. The procedure is performed under general anaesthesia and takes about 30 minutes.

2. Catheter care

The catheter dressing should be changed three times a week. You can do this yourself or have it done by your partner or home nurse. You will be taught how to perform the dressing care correctly and what signs to look for to detect infection early.

Example of a catheter dressing.



Example of a belt to prevent pressure on the peritoneal dialysis catheter.

Please note:

- **NEVER** pull the catheter. Be careful each time you handle it.
- **NEVER** scratch the catheter insertion site (the skin port).
- **ALWAYS** keep the catheter safely in place under clothing.
- **ALWAYS** perform the peritoneal dialysis exchange using the method you learned.
- **ALWAYS** apply the dressing using the method you learned. When showering, dry the insertion site and the catheter carefully before taking care of the dressing.
- **ALWAYS** check to see that the fluid drained during peritoneal dialysis is clear. A cloudy appearance may indicate inflammation of the peritoneum (peritonitis). In that case, you should notify your hospital nurse immediately.
- **ALWAYS** notify your nurse if you have a fever (over 38°C), itching, pain, muscle weakness, etc.
- **ALWAYS** notify your nurse in case of redness, pus or a swollen catheter insert site.

3. Showering

With a peritoneal dialysis catheter, swimming and taking a bath are not recommended due to the risk of infection. Showering is only allowed if the site where the catheter is placed is completely healed and with a doctor's approval. It is important for catheter care to be performed immediately after showering.

Contact

Peritoneal Dialysis
t 051 23 74 64
e PDverpleegkundigen@azdelta.be

Renal disease nurse specialist
Sabine Verniest

www.azdelta.be

Source: Department of Nephrology

Physicians

Dr Gert De Schoenmakere
Dr Bart Maes
Dr Thomas Malfait
Dr Hans Schepkens
Dr An Vanacker
Dr Ignace Vandewiele

AZ Delta Deltalaan 1, 8800 Roeselare **t** 051 23 71 11 **e** info@azdelta.be **w** www.azdelta.be
0520 5442-EN **This brochure is revised on 14/08/2025**