

ASH SPLIT CATH™ PATIENT INFORMATION GUIDE

ASCPATIENTINFORMATIONGUIDE

Patient
Information
Guide

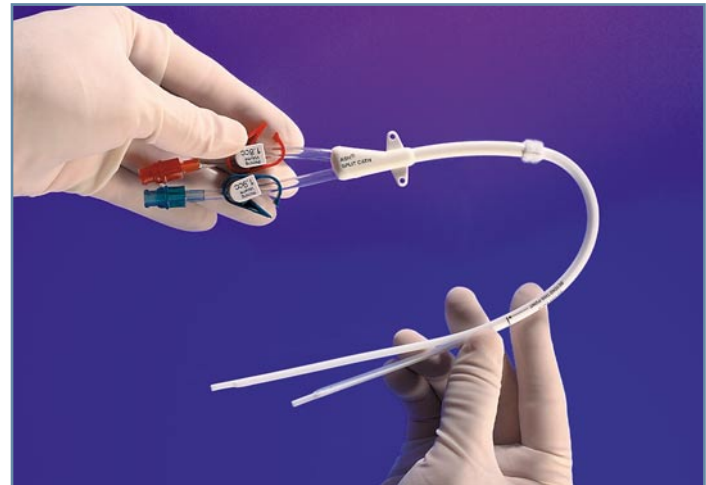
CONTENTS

What is an Ash Split Cath™?	1
Where is the Ash Split Cath™ Inserted?	2
How Does the Ash Split Cath™ Work?	3
How to Care for the Ash Split Cath™.	4
What Problems Can Occur with the Ash Split Cath™?	5
Frequently Used Terms	8
Catheter Information & Special Instructions	9
Acknowledgements	10

WHAT IS AN ASH SPLIT CATH™?

The Ash Split Cath™ is a Long Term catheter that is inserted into a central vein for the purpose of accessing blood for dialysis. The catheter is inserted in a simple surgical procedure.

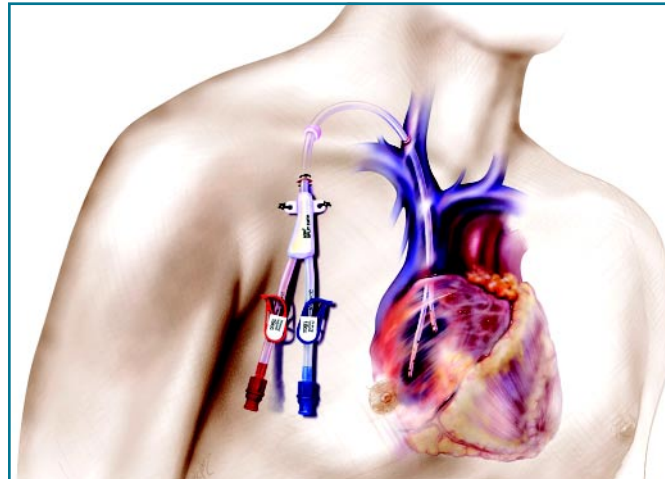
The catheter is designed to remain in place for an extended period of time, allowing vascular access for dialysis. Benefits of this catheter are that the dialysis nurses can start dialysis through the catheter rather than sticking a graft or fistula in your arm. It also provides a vascular access in patients who can not have or do not want fistulas or grafts due to their medical condition.



Ash Split Cath™

WHERE IS THE ASH SPLIT CATH™ INSERTED?

The Ash Split Cath™ is “*tunneled*” under the skin and then inserted in a large vein in your neck. The tip of the catheter is in the large vein that enters your heart. It is placed there because of the large volume of blood flow at that site, which is necessary for dialysis.



Right Internal Jugular Vein Placement

HOW DOES THE ASH SPLIT CATH™ WORK?

The Ash Split Cath™ is a double lumen catheter that is specifically designed to allow for high blood flows during high flux or high efficiency dialysis. This allows your dialysis treatment to be very efficient in clearing the toxins from your blood.

The catheter is attached to the blood tubing during dialysis. One lumen allows blood to be pulled out of your vein into the dialysis machine, and the other lumen allows the machine to return your clean blood back to your vein. After your dialysis treatment, your nurse will inject a heparin solution to keep the catheter from clotting so it can be used for the next dialysis treatment.

WHAT PROBLEMS CAN OCCUR WITH THE ASH SPLIT CATH™?

INFECTION

SIGNS: You may have fever, chills, swelling, drainage at the exit site, redness or tenderness. You may feel unusually tired, or have nausea or vomiting.

WHAT TO DO: Call your doctor. You may have an infection and may need an antibiotic.

BLEEDING FROM THE CATHETER

SIGNS: Blood leaking from the catheter.

WHAT TO DO: Stop the bleeding by pinching, clamping, or tying off the end of your catheter. Call your Doctor immediately.

CLOTTED CATHETER

SIGNS: No blood return when the nurse tried to start dialysis.

WHAT TO DO: Your nurse will notify your doctor for further orders. Sometimes a medicine that dissolves blood clots can be injected or the catheter may need to be replaced

AIR IN THE LUNG (PNEUMOTHORAX)

SIGNS: Shortness of breath or chest discomfort within hours after your catheter is inserted, you may have air in your lung space.

WHAT TO DO: This is an EMERGENCY. Call 911 and sit quietly in a position that is comfortable. You will need to be examined as soon as possible.

AIR IN THE CATHETER

SIGNS: This may occur if your catheter is cut or the cap is removed accidentally. If this occurs, you may have shortness of breath, chest pain, or pass out.

WHAT TO DO: This is an EMERGENCY. Clamp the catheter immediately near the exit site if the catheter has been damaged or the cap has come off. If the damage to the catheter is between the clamp and your skin, then tie a knot in the catheter close to where the catheter enters your skin. You may also bend the catheter over and hold it closed by tightly placing a rubber band or plastic twist tie. Lie down on your left side with your head down and your feet elevated. Call your doctor immediately if you are able or call 911.

SWELLING OF THE NECK, ARM, OR HAND ON THE CATHETER SIDE

SIGNS: Sometimes the vein in your neck becomes narrowed when the catheter is in place. If you notice swelling in your hand, arm, neck, or breast, this may be the problem.

WHAT TO DO: Call your doctor. He will probably want to get a special X-Ray.

CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY IF AT ANY TIME YOU HAVE UNCONTROLLED BLEEDING, SHORTNESS OF BREATH, OR CHEST PAIN.

FREQUENTLY USED TERMS

EXIT SITE

The place on your body where the catheter comes out. With this catheter, it is usually the upper chest wall.

TUNNELING

The procedure whereby the catheter are pulled under the skin to exit the chest wall. This is done during the insertion of the catheter.

CLAMP

To seal off or occlude the catheter so that nothing can go in the catheter or come out. It may be done by bending the catheter on itself or by using a clamp provided.

INSERTION SITE

The small incision on your neck or chest where the catheter was inserted.

HEMODIALYSIS

Treatment which takes blood from a large vein, processes it through the dialysis machine for cleaning, then returns the blood to the patient. Usual treatments are 3 times a week for 2 1/2 - 4 hours.

TOXINS

Waste products and poisons that build up naturally in your blood. These are normally removed by the kidney. Patients with renal failure must undergo dialysis to remove the toxins.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks To:

Authorship:

Patty Campbell, R.N., A.N.P.

Editorial:

Judy Hahn, R.N., A.N.P.

Sandy Boxer, R.N., A.N.P.

Molly Moore, R.N., A.N.P.

Recommendations For Catheter Care For Dialysis Unit:

1. Do Not use serrated clamps to clamp catheter.
2. Do Not attempt to remove clear plastic extensions.
3. DO NOT USE ALCOHOL OR ACETONE BASED PRODUCTS with this catheter or catheter failure will occur.

CATHETER INFORMATION CARD

This card has information that health care professionals will need to assist you in the care and maintenance of your catheter. It is recommended that you detach this card and carry it with you at all times.

ASH SPLIT CATH™

Patient Name: _____

Physician: _____

Phone: _____

Date of Insertion: _____

Lot Number: _____

Catheter Manufactured by: MEDCOMP, INC.
1499 Delp Drive, Harleysville PA 19438
215-256-4201 • FAX: 215-256-1787
www.medcompnet.com

