

Dialysis access procedures we perform:

- Temporary and tunneled dialysis catheter including “impossible” access
- Pre-operation angiographic evaluation of arteries and veins, including vein mapping
- Fistula maturing procedures (BAM)
- Fistula maintenance procedures
- Fistula Thrombectomy
- Ischemic-steal evaluation and treatment

Problems for patients to look for:

- Swollen arm
- Prolonged bleeding
- Poor clearance
- Numbness/tingling of the hand

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

*Remember that you have the right to choose the care you receive. You can choose the doctors you want to see. **It's your body, it's your right!***



William Julien, MD



South Florida Vascular Associates is a comprehensive medical practice specializing in minimally invasive endovascular solutions to diagnose and treat various medical issues. Our unique approach to patient care is recognized for its commitment to clinical excellence and outstanding patient satisfaction.



OUR DIFFERENCE

- 8000 sq. ft. office
- 3 state of the art endovascular suites on site
- Same or next day service available for dialysis access procedures
- Facility licensed by Florida Department of Health for office surgery
- Comprehensive vascular consultative practice



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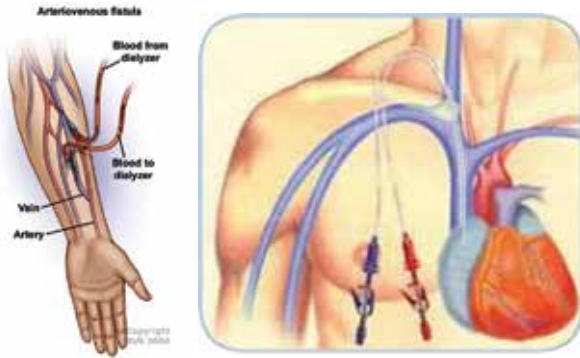
DIALYSIS

How To Care For Your Dialysis Access



William Julien, MD

INTRODUCTION TO YOUR HEMODIALYSIS ACCESS



HOW HEMODIALYSIS WORKS

Hemodialysis is a closed circuit filtering process where blood has to flow at a certain rate into an artificial kidney machine to remove toxins and extra water. This is accomplished with either a dialysis catheter or a fistula/graft. Access to your circulation has to be obtained at two points. An exit point where blood is withdrawn from the circulation, allowed to flow via plastic tubes into the hemodialysis machine and then returned to the body via another set of tubes. The process does not spill or contaminate your blood. It is usually done as an outpatient procedure three times a week.

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR FISTULA/GRAFT

The following tips will help you care for your fistula or graft:

- Check several times each day to make sure the access is functioning. You should be able to feel a vibration in the fistula called a “thrill.” Your physician or dialysis center staff will show you how to do this. If it does not feel normal call our office: (954) 725-4141.
- Monitor any bleeding after dialysis. If the graft seems to bleed longer than usual from the needle sites, you should notify your dialysis center staff.
- Do not carry heavy items with the arm that has the access.
- Do not sleep on that arm.
- Do not wear any clothing or jewelry that binds that arm.
- Do not let anyone draw blood or measure blood pressure from that arm.
- Do not allow injections to be given into the fistula or graft.
- Keep the site of the fistula or graft clean.

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR CATHETER

By taking good care of your catheter, it will last longer and you will prevent problems such as infection and clotting.

Here are some important steps to take:

- Keep the catheter and dressing clean and dry.
- The dressing should be changed at each dialysis session.
- Keep an emergency dressing kit at home, in case you need to change your dressing in-between treatments. Ask your dialysis care team to teach you how to change the dressing in an emergency.
- Do not shower or swim. You must not wet your catheter site or catheter dressing. Moisture can cause infection. Taking a bath is safe only if you do not allow your catheter or catheter dressing to get wet.
- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth anytime the catheter is opened to prevent bacteria from entering the catheter and your bloodstream. Professionals changing the dressing should wear a mask and gloves as well.
- The cap and the clamps of your catheter should be kept tightly closed when not being used for dialysis. Only your care team should use your dialysis catheter to draw blood or to give medications or fluids.
- If the area around your catheter feels sore or looks red, call your dialysis care team at once. Ask your dialysis team about signs and symptoms that require immediate attention.

HOW TO PREVENT COMPLICATIONS AND MAINTAIN YOUR ACCESS

Have routine checkups by your interventionalist.

Even though your access is working, you should have it looked at periodically to prevent complications.

