

IV Team

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SAFETY ASPECTS FOR GROSHONG PICCs

INFECTION

1. Observe the exit site (where the tube comes out of the arm) for any signs of infection: -
Redness,
Swelling,
Pain
Discharge, i.e. blood or pus.
If this should occur take your child to your local hospital or call your paediatric community nurse for assessment, swab and blood cultures. An exit site infection needs to be treated promptly as it may progress to a line infection (infection inside the catheter).
2. Take your child's temperature as per the neutropenic protocol, (go up to the local hospital if the temperature remains 38.0°C for 1 hour. If the temperature is 38.5°C go straight up - don't wait). This is because when children are neutropenic, they are very susceptible to infection and the PICC line is a possible source of infection.
3. If the dressing is soiled with blood or looks wet under the dressing, it will need changing, as this increases the risk of infection. Otherwise the dressing needs changing once a week, your community team will do this.
4. Try to keep the PICC - including the ends, dry. Tape it up out of the way when your child is having a bath.
5. If the cap falls off, wash your hands well, clean the end of the PICC with an alcowipe being careful not to touch the end, and put on a new cap. Never put back on an old cap. Please tell your community nurse so that blood cultures can be taken.

ACCIDENTAL REMOVAL

1. Please ensure that the PICC is securely fastened with steri-strips and that it is completely covered to half way down the hub with IV 3000. If possible the PICC should be looped underneath the dressing to prevent accidental

damage or dislodgement. When not in use the area around the PICC can be covered with a bandage to provide extra security.

2. If the line is accidentally removed, pressure should be applied, for five minutes, to the exit site, to stop any bleeding.
3. If the line falls out, take your child and the PICC to the ward at your local hospital.

BREAKAGE

1. You will be given some blue clamps to take home with you. Ensure you carry them around with you at all times.
2. If the PICC breaks, or you can see a hole in it, clamp the line between the exit site and the break. The line can be mended, so wrap a piece of occlusive dressing (eg a small IV3000) around the break, to ensure that the line doesn't get dirty. Then place a piece of gauze around the line before you apply the clamps. These prevent air getting in and blood coming out of the line. Use the 3rd section of the blue clamps (at the bottom of the "V"), as the first section may damage the line further, and the second section won't clamp the line sufficiently. If you don't have your blue clamps on you, bend the line over and hold it with your fingers. Take your child up to your local hospital to have them assess him/her and to check that the line has been clamped properly. They will make arrangements with us to have it repaired.