

Transcript

A clean, dry dressing covers your central venous catheter access site at all times to prevent infection. To further prevent infection, your dressings must be changed on a regular basis, usually at some point during every hemodialysis treatment or every seven days.

Keep your dressings clean and dry. If they become wet or dirty they must be changed right away. To change your dressings it is important that everything be kept clean. It is best to have a trained healthcare provider change your dressings to avoid infection.

In a clean area, your healthcare provider will remove the old dressing. When the dressing is off, your healthcare provider will check the site for signs of infection including: increased pain, swelling, warmth, or redness at the area, red streaks leading from your insertion site, drainage from the site, a foul odor, or a fever.

Wearing clean gloves, your healthcare provider will disinfect the skin around the insertion site thoroughly. Allow the area to dry. Do not fan or blow on the area to speed things up. Prevent infection any way you can.

The new dressing will be put on over the insertion site when the site is dry. Putting a dressing on when the site is still wet can cause blisters and irritate your skin.

“What am I supposed to do when my dressings get a little wet?”

“That’s a great question...”

Make sure you talk to your dialysis center about what to do if your dressings become wet or soiled in between your hemodialysis treatments. Always follow their instructions to prevent infection.