

Caring for Your Child's IV Site

An intravenous tube, or I.V., puts fluids or medicines directly into the vein, so they can go quickly into your child's bloodstream and the rest of the body.

Most of the time, I.V.s are placed in the back of the hand, the forearm, or the inside of the elbow.

The area where the I.V. went into the hand or arm may get a little sore or bruised after the I.V. is taken out.

So it's good to give this area a little extra care after your child goes home.

[video game sounds] Keep an eye on the area for a few days.

Watch for any problems, like bruising or swelling.

If you notice bruising or swelling, try putting ice or a cold pack on the area for 10 to 20 minutes at a time.

Put a thin cloth between the ice and your child's skin.

Your child should be able to do their usual activities, unless the doctor said not to.

But make sure your child is gentle with that part of the arm for a day or two.

Your child can bathe or shower as usual.

Call your doctor or get medical care right away if your child has signs of infection, such as increased pain, swelling, warmth, or redness; red streaks leading from the site; pus or blood draining from the site; or a fever.

And be sure to contact your doctor if you see new or worse bruising, or a large lump at the site.