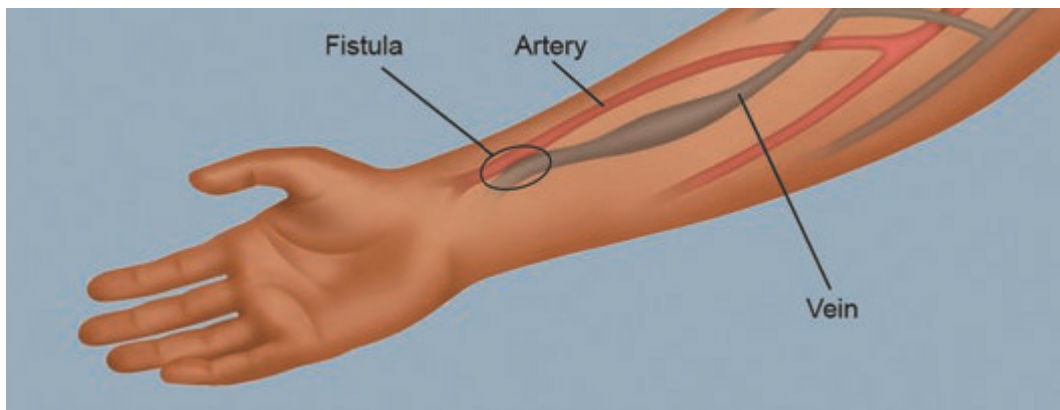


Arteriovenous Fistula (AV fistula) for Dialysis

Patient and Caregiver Education

Your doctor has advised you that you need an arteriovenous (AV) fistula for dialysis. An AV fistula for dialysis treatment is created to connect an artery and a vein to be used for dialysis treatment. The artery pushes more blood into the vein and causes it to widen and become harder, which allows for the vein to handle the higher volume of blood coming back from the dialysis machine and decreasing the chances of clots developing in the veins. Your own blood vessels or a prosthetic material can be used to make this connection. Your doctor will discuss with you what option is best for you. This guide will help communicate what will happen before, during and after your procedure.



Preparation:

You will receive a phone call reminding you of your procedure. Be sure to ask any questions you may have when our staff calls.

What do I need to do before my procedure?

- You will need to fast (no food or drink) prior to this procedure. Follow the pre-surgical instruction sheet you were given by the office.
- Refer to the pre surgical instruction sheet for arrival time and surgery time.
- Make sure you have clean sheets, towels and clothing at home for after procedure.
- Arrange for a responsible adult to help with your care once you go home after procedure.

Medications

- It is very important to follow the pre-surgical instructions provided by your physician.
- Please prepare a current list of your medications, including over the counter medicine, to bring with you on the day of your procedure.

Day of Procedure

What do I do the day of my procedure?

- Shower the morning of the procedure.
- Do not apply lotion, makeup, deodorant or hair products on this day.
- Leave valuables and jewelry at home.
- When you arrive, simply check in at the first floor front desk.
- Do not smoke or use nicotine products, including e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, the day of your procedure.

Anesthesia

During the surgery, you will be given medications in your IV that will allow you to sleep during the surgery. This is general anesthesia. An anesthesiologist will monitor you closely during the surgery. You may remain groggy for a few hours after anesthesia.

What are side effects of the anesthesia?

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Dry Mouth
- Sore Throat
- Shivering
- Sleepiness
- Mildhoarseness

After the Procedure

What should I expect after my procedure?

- A nurse will oversee your recovery after the procedure.
- You will stay for 1-2 hours to be monitored, and then you will be discharged to go home.
- Your nurse will provide you with written discharge instructions, instructions on how to care for your incision and answer all your questions before sending you home.

If you experience at home:

Nausea and vomiting- Begin with sips of clear liquids in small amounts. Once you tolerate clear liquids, you should slowly add in other bland, low fat food choices, gradually increasing to your normal diet.

Pain-After surgery, you may experience pain. For mild discomfort this can usually be managed with over the counter pain relievers. For stronger discomfort or pain, discuss with your physician about pain medications.

Unexpected Bleeding-Excessive bleeding that soaks through the dressing or excessive fluid from the procedure site is not normal. Hold pressure to the site and call 911.

Signs of infections- Call your physician office if you have a fever over 101 degrees, increased redness, swelling or heat at the incision site.

Date & Version #	Form Changes
OHHP-F640 (Ver 1. 5/18)	Original
OHHP-F640 (Rev. 1/20)	Type Changes