



Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Parent Information Sheet: Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)

What is a PICC?

A PICC is a special long IV catheter that can stay in place for a lengthy period of time (days, weeks, or months). Your baby's medical team may decide that a PICC is needed for your son/daughter, if your infant needs frequent IVs, a long treatment with antibiotics, and/or a long treatment with IV nutrition.

What does a PICC look like?

Think of a long IV catheter.



A PICC is usually placed in a big vein in the arm or leg and is advanced up to a big vessel near the heart. Just like a regular IV, the "hub" end is taped to the skin, while the catheter part is inside the vessel.

How is a PICC put in?

Your baby's PICC will be inserted in the NICU.

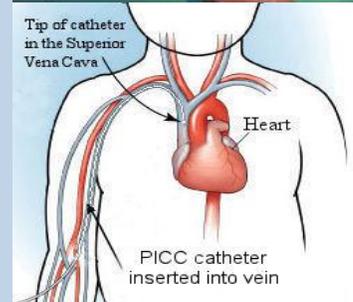
- Putting in a PICC is a sterile procedure placed by a PICC nurse or doctor.
- Many times, a baby receives a small amount of pain medicine for the procedure.
- Just like an IV has a needle in it to help poke the skin and get into the vein, so does a PICC. Once the tip of the needle is in the vessel, the needle is removed and the soft plastic tubing part of the PICC slides into the vein.
- A part of the PICC will be seen outside of the vessel and be taped onto the skin. A dressing then covers the whole PICC site. This will keep it from accidentally being pulled out.
- A chest x-ray is taken to make sure that the end of the catheter is in the right place.

Are there risks?

With any procedure, there is risk. Infection (either of the vessel or in the blood) is the most serious one. Your baby's medical team will carefully watch your baby for any signs of infection. If you have any questions, ask, ask, ask!!

Highlights

- Special long IV catheter
- Placed in arm or leg using sterile technique
- Can last for days, weeks, or even months, if needed
- Usually needed if a baby needs a long course of antibiotics or IV nutrition.



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