



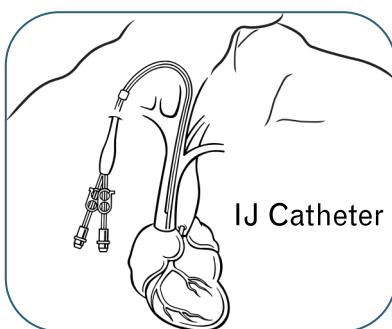
Safer Dialysis with a Permanent Access

A hemodialysis “access” is a way to get a strong blood flow for dialysis

- There are two types of dialysis access—*temporary* and *permanent*
- A permanent access is best; you will live longer and feel better

Temporary, emergency access—**IJ catheter**

- An IJ catheter is a tube that goes into your jugular vein and into your heart
- Can be used right away for dialysis, until a safer option is available
- **Your risk of death is 2-3 times higher with an IJ catheter than with a fistula**
- Has a high risk of serious infection
- Often feel sicker because it’s harder to get your blood clean



A fistula is the best, safest access for hemodialysis

- A surgeon joins 2 blood vessels under the skin in your arm
- This increases pressure in one blood vessel so it grows bigger and stronger; this takes 6 to 8 weeks
- For dialysis, 2 needles connected to tubing are placed in the blood vessel to take blood in and out
- You can still use your arm normally

If you don't have good blood vessels for a fistula, the surgeon can put in a graft—the second best access

- A piece of tubing is implanted to join 2 blood vessels together
- For dialysis, 2 needles connected to tubing are placed in the graft to take blood in and out
- You can still use your arm normally

