

Emergency Department Antibiotic IV Therapy

General Information

You have an infection that requires IV (intravenous) antibiotic treatment. The doctor feels you are well enough to go home, but would like you to come back for daily IV therapy. You will be seen by a doctor each day, who will assess your need for further days of IV therapy. Be sure to tell the nurse or doctor if you still have signs of an infection such as fever (a temperature above 38.0°C), and/or more pain, swelling, drainage or redness in the area of the infection.

Your IV will remain in when you are sent home to help speed your visit to the Emergency each day. You have a tiny, flexible tube (IV) in your vein where your medication is given. There is a plastic bandage over top of the tubing to keep it in place. It is important to take care of your IV while you are at home or at work.

Instructions

Taking Care of Your IV:

- Keep it clean and dry at all times.
- Cover it well with plastic wrap or a plastic bag when you shower or bath (do not get your IV wet).
- Do not bump or push on your IV.
- Tell the nurse if you have pain, redness, or swelling around your IV.
- Do not worry if you see blood in the IV tubing, this is not unusual.
- If your IV is accidentally removed, remove the entire bandage and then apply pressure to the area with a piece of gauze or clean tissue until the bleeding stops. The bandage and IV can be discarded in the garbage.

Taking Care of Your Wound:

Depending on where your infection is located, it may or may not have a wound that is covered with a bandage.

- Keep the area clean and dry at all times.
- Wash your hands before and after touching it.
- If the bandage becomes wet or dirty, replace it with a new dry bandage.
- If your infection is on an arm or leg, try to keep your affected arm or leg elevated to decrease pain and swelling.

Return to the Emergency Department prior to your next scheduled visit, or call 911, if any of the following develop:

- Breathing that is very fast and/or trouble breathing.
- A heartbeat that is very fast.
- Confusion, light-headedness, or loss of consciousness (passing out).
- Swelling of the tongue, lips, mouth, or face.

For more information or questions contact HealthLinkBC at 811.

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