

Questions to Consider Before the Placement of a Central Venous Access Device (CVAD)

This resource, created with the help of patients who have experienced multiple Central Venous Access Device (CVAD) placements, offers a list of questions you might have for your Interventional Radiology (IR) or surgical team. It's designed to empower you in your shared decision-making process, helping you guide the conversation with your provider.

Questions about Device type, Options, Risks, and Benefits

1. Why do I need a CVAD, what is important about my history, and what tests do I need before placement?
 - a. Why do I need a CVAD?
 - b. How long will I need this CVAD?
 - c. What of my medical history is important to include as we talk about the right CVAD for me?
 - d. Can we talk about my previous vascular access history and previous CVADs? How does my history affect my choices about the type of device, the vein used, the entry site, the exit site, catheter tip position?
 - e. Are there studies, procedures, medications, or other preparation needed before my CVAD insertion procedure?
 - f. What specific precautions will be taken to protect my remaining vascular access for future needs?
2. What types of CVADS are available?
 - a. PICC, port, tunneled?
 - b. Single or double -one or two hubs?
 - c. Catheter material type?
 - d. Sizes?
 - e. Risks and benefits of each?
 - f. What determines which I need, and do I have any say?
3. What is the best type of CVAD for me?
 - a. Discuss medications, duration, what's incompatible
 - b. Discuss quality of life needs and activities

- c. Discuss goals and what matters to you
- d. Discuss how the catheter will be cared for at home and support available and how that impacts which device is placed
- e. Discuss how the choice of CVAD will impact my current and future vascular access needs

Questions about Placement

- 4. What is the procedure step by step?
 - a. How long does it take
 - b. What department and doctor are placing the CVAD
- 5. What will be used for sedation, if needed, during the placement?
 - a. If you have specific needs, it is best to initiate this conversation prior to scheduling the procedure as different methods may require the involvement of different departments.
 - b. Discuss what has/not worked with you before.
- 6. Are you able to obtain the specific line/device that best works for me? If not, what are my options?
 - a. Can I see the line in the package before it is placed? It is helpful to retain the product number for your team.
 - b. If you have allergies to certain materials or have reacted poorly to a certain device, ensure that is documented and discussed prior to the procedure.
- 7. What are the options for placement/exit site options, and do I have any say?
 - a. Considerations might include avoiding backpack strap, too close to armpit or curve of shoulder, etc.
 - b. Can we discuss the spots I would prefer to use or avoid?

Questions about Post-Placement

- 8. What can I expect immediately after the placement? (early recovery phase)
- 9. What follow-up care is required in the days and weeks after placement?
 - a. Will I be in pain, and if so, what is the plan?
 - b. Are there recovery restrictions such as when can use the CVAD, lifting limits, etc.

10. Which provider will be responsible for helping me identify and manage my CVAD if there are any issues/complications after placement?

a. How do I contact this provider?

11. What can I do to minimize the risk of infection or other complications?

a. What are common signs of complications and what should I do if I see them?

b. Process if I need a repair on my CVAD

c. Process if I need to resolve an occlusion

d. Process if I have signs and symptoms of infection

e. Process if I need this CVAD removed and replaced

12. What kind of education and support will I (and caregivers) receive on about how to care for and troubleshoot complications and how will I know when it is time to remove the CVAD?

a. What resources do I need to have in place to manage my care at home?

b. How can I and/or my caregivers be trained to manage my care independently?

c. Does your team put restrictions on what patients can and cannot do (such as dressing changes once trained)?

d. What indicates when it's time for my CVAD to be removed?

Questions to consider if you have had multiple CVADs:

- What central venous access options are still viable based on my current vascular status?
- What are the next steps if I am down to my last or have run out of access points?
- Are non-traditional access points (like femoral or other veins) an option if needed?

Questions to Consider: Is this the right provider to place your Central Venous Access Device (CVAD)

These additional questions are from an IR vascular access specialist doctor. The suggestions help you better determine if you are working with the right provider for your healthcare needs.

1. Are you willing to work with me as a partner in the process of my CVAD insertion?
2. Are you willing to discuss shared responsibilities?
3. Are there any decisions you are unwilling to discuss with me or include my input for?

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4. If we agree to decisions like device selection details, catheter locations, etc. can I rely on you to discuss any changes to our agreed plan before implementing changes?
5. Under what circumstances might you change the agreed plan without discussing it with me?

About Oley

The Oley Foundation is a non-profit organization that advocates for and represents the home nutrition therapy community. Our vision is to create a world where those on IV nutrition and tube feeding are united, supported, and empowered to successfully manage and thrive on home nutrition support. We believe in inclusivity and value the collaboration of patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals. Your participation and contributions help make Oley a unifying platform for sharing best practices and providing patient-centered care. To learn more about our initiatives and opportunities to get involved or to make a donation, visit www.oley.org.

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