

Central venous access device (CVAD): Central venous line (CVL) repair



What should I do if my child's line breaks outside of the hospital?

If your child's line breaks, blood will most often flow back out of the line. If this happens:

- Stop the blood flow **right away** by clamping the line.
 - If the clamp is still on the line, close it between the hole or break and your child to stop the blood flow.
 - If the clamp is not on the line, fold the line over itself above the leak and pinch it with your fingers. Use a rubber band, a piece of string or tape to hold the line closed tightly.
 - If you were given clamps, use them to clamp the line between the hole or break and your child.
- Wrap the broken end of the line in gauze. Use sterile gauze if you have it. If not, use non-sterile gauze or a similar material to wrap the end of the line.

If you see a balloon in the line when flushing, do NOT use the line.

Who should I call when my child's line breaks or balloons?

1. Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department (ED) right away – **this is a medical emergency**.
2. Call your child's doctor to let them know what happened and where you are going to the ED. This gives them a chance to prepare the hospital, ED and staff for your arrival and care.

What should I bring to the hospital?

Try to bring these things to the ED if your child needs any infusions in the next 24 hours:

- Fluids, medicines or I.V. nutrition
- Equipment like pumps and tubing to give them

What should I expect at the hospital?

- While you are in the ED, a trained licensed professional will use a special type of glue to repair your child's line if possible.
- It is best to allow the glue to dry for 24 hours before using the repaired line. If this is not possible, you may use the line after 4 hours for I.V. infusions.
- Always check with your child's nurse or doctor about the plan of care for your child.

NOTE: It will take 48 hours for the repaired area of the line to completely dry. Using too much pressure with flushing or stretching the line may break the repair site.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

CVAD: central venous line (CVL) repair, continued

Ask your child's nurse or doctor to fill in the blanks below abouts specific care for your child.

- It is OK to use the line _____ hours after repair.
- Your child's line was repaired at _____ (time). It can be used at _____ (time).

The nurse will flush the line and check for blood return after repair. If the line works well, you may be able to take your child home.

What happens after the line is repaired?

For 24 hours after your child's line is repaired:

- Be very careful not to pull on or stretch the repaired line.
- Give your child plenty of quiet activities to do in bed or in a chair. This helps decrease for the chance of re-breaking the line. Your child could:
 - Read a book.
 - Watch a movie.
 - Draw and color.
 - Do homework.
 - Do a puzzle.
 - Play cards.
 - Eat a meal or snack.

What about my child's I.V. infusion or medicines?

The ED may place a peripheral I.V. (PIV) in your child's arm, hand or foot if they need a constant infusion or medicine (like TPN, prostanoids or milrinone). A PIV is temporary and can only be used in the hospital. Your child will not go home with it.

Please tell the nurse or doctor if your child will need any infusions or medicines in the hospital. It is very important to tell your doctor if your child has a recent history of low blood sugar (glucose) while off I.V. fluids, pulmonary hypertension or a heart problem that requires frequent or continuous medicine.

What if the line cannot be repaired?

Sometimes it is not possible or safe to repair the line at the bedside. Your child may need surgery to have a new line placed. The doctor will talk with you first and then ask for consent (or permission). Please stay with your child so you can talk with the surgeons when they come to see your child.

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

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