



Your doctor has requested a Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) line be inserted for your treatment. A PICC is a long, thin, hollow, soft tube that is placed in a vein in your upper arm to provide intravenous (IV) access. A PICC line can stay in for as long as you need it. It can be used to give you IV fluids, medications, chemotherapy, blood products, and nutrition, as well as to take blood samples.

A qualified PICC inserter places your PICC line into a vein in your upper arm using ultrasound guidance. The catheter is guided into a large vein in your chest using an electrocardiogram (ECG). The tip of the catheter is placed near the heart, where a large amount of blood flows quickly. There is very little discomfort during this procedure, as the skin is numbed using a local anesthetic.

During the Procedure

- You are positioned on your back on a stretcher with your arm out to the side. The palm of your hand is turned facing up towards the ceiling. Either your right or left arm can be used. You will be assessed for the most appropriate placement of the catheter.
- ECG monitoring equipment and stickers are placed on your chest. Measurements are taken to determine the appropriate length of the PICC line, which is then cut to fit you.
- To prevent infections, the skin on your arm is cleaned with a cleansing agent and sterile cloths are used to cover your arm.
- A tourniquet is placed on your arm, and the PICC inserter locates your vein with ultrasound.
- A local anesthetic (freezing) is injected at the intended access site to numb the skin.
- A needle is put into the vein. A small wire is passed through this needle and into the vein.
- The PICC line is guided into your vein. Once the line is in place, the ECG monitor is used to verify correct placement.
- When the procedure is complete, your PICC line is secured in place to prevent it from being dislodged or moved. A special sterile dressing is used to cover the insertion site to prevent infection.

Risks of this Procedure

The risk of complications during this procedure is extremely low. They can include but are not limited to:

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Injury to the vein
- Injury to the nerve

Based on the information received from your doctor, this procedure is recommended, as the benefits outweigh the risks.

