



CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION: HOME INSTRUCTIONS

SITE CARE AND BATHING

The puncture site should be kept clean and dry. The site should be watched for signs of infection which include redness, swelling or drainage. A shower is permitted the day after the procedure; however, it is suggested that you wait 48 hours before taking a tub bath. The site should be gently washed with soap and water and patted dry. A small bruise or lump at the puncture site is common and will disappear in a few weeks.

ACTIVITY

Do not lift more than 10 pounds, and engage in only light activities for two days following the catheterization. If you cannot avoid heavier activity during this time, discuss this with your doctor before going home. Unless otherwise instructed, you may return to your normal activities after this time.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS TO REPORT

Call the doctor if:

- the puncture site begins to bleed, becomes painful or shows signs of infection (redness or drainage);
- the bruising or swelling increases; or
- the arm or leg used for the catheterization becomes cold, numb or painful.

If you have bleeding from the site, you should place your fingers about an inch above the puncture site and apply firm pressure immediately for at least ten minutes. The doctor should then be called, or you should report to the nearest emergency room if the site continues to bleed. The doctor can be reached at (601) 984-2250 during weekdays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

After hours and on weekends, the doctor can be reached by calling (601) 984-1000 and having the operator page the cardiologist on call.

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