

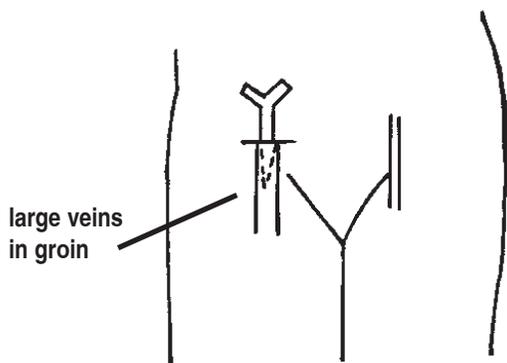
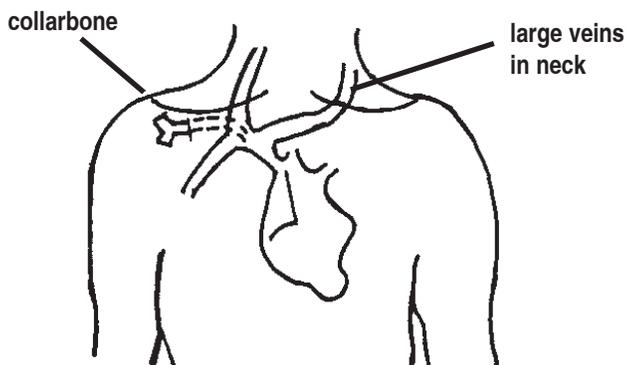
Mahurkar Catheter

What is a Mahurkar catheter?

This is a large, semi-flexible hollow tube (catheter) used for removing apheresis (certain parts from whole blood). The Mahurkar catheter is best suited for the rapid withdrawal and return of blood necessary for apheresis (the catheter is 2 tubes in 1 inside the body and separates into 2 tubes outside the body).

Where does the catheter go?

The Mahurkar catheter is usually placed just under the collarbone and thread into a major blood vessel in the upper part of the chest. If it is a one-day procedure the catheter may be placed in a large blood vessel in the groin.



What can I expect?

Although the skin will be numbed, you will feel pressure as the catheter is placed. As the numbing medication wears off, you may feel some discomfort in the area of the catheter (let the nurse know if you would like pain medicine). The discomfort should decrease as the days progress.

How is the catheter removed?

Removing the catheter is a painless procedure. The catheter is usually stitched in place. The nurse will remove the stitches and then instruct you to take a deep breath and hold it while the catheter is pulled out. Your nurse will apply pressure for five minutes and then place a pressure bandage on the site. This bandage should be left on for 24 to 48 hours.

If your catheter is not removed

- While the catheter is in, do not take showers or immerse the catheter in water. You may take a sponge bath.
- Keep the area clean and dry.
- The nurses will check the dressing daily, however, be sure to tell the nurse if you should notice:
 - a change in tenderness
 - redness of the skin
 - change in drainage

The information presented is intended for general information and educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care provider. Contact your health care provider if you believe you have a health problem.