

UMBILICAL ARTERY CATHETER REMOVAL

Do not attempt to carry out this procedure unless you have been trained to do so and have demonstrated your competence

INDICATIONS

- Catheter no longer required
- No longer patent
- Suspected infection
- Complications [(e.g. necrotising enterocolitis (NEC), white toes)]

EQUIPMENT

- Alcohol swab
- Sterile stitch cutter
- Sterile blade
- Umbilical tape

PROCEDURE

- Wash hands and put on sterile gloves
- Clean cord stump with non-alcohol antiseptic
- if umbilical tissue adherent to catheter, loosen by soaking cord stump with damp gauze swab
- Ensure an umbilical tape is loosely secured around base of umbilicus
- Turn infusion pump off and clamp infusion line
- Withdraw catheter slowly over 2-3 min taking particular care with last 2-3 cm
- If bleeding noted, tighten umbilical tape
- Do not cover umbilicus with large absorbent pad, a small piece of cotton gauze should suffice
- Inspect catheter after removal: if any part missing, contact consultant immediately
- Send catheter tip for culture and sensitivity

AFTERCARE

- Nurse baby supine for 4 hr following removal, and observe for bleeding

COMPLICATIONS

- Bleeding
- Catheter tip inadvertently left in blood vessel