



Cardiac Catheterization

Service de cardiologie pédiatrique Division of Pediatric Cardiology

Dear parents, your child has just undergone cardiac catheterization and is ready to go home. This information will help ensure your child recovers safely after leaving the hospital.

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Caring for your surgical site

- Keep the puncture site dry and clean. If the dressing becomes soiled or wet, remove it and wash the skin with soap and water. Let the site area dry and apply another adhesive dressing. Continue to change it, whenever necessary, for 24 hours.
- The area may be a little sensitive for a few days following the procedure, but should not be painful or reddened.
- It is common to notice an ecchymosis (bluish discoloration) at the puncture site caused by a hematoma (small amount of bleeding below the skin). This is not dangerous and will resolve.

Pain management

- Your child may be uncomfortable or have a low grade fever the evening of the procedure: Acetaminophen (Tylenol®, Tempra®) may be administered.

Return to baseline

- Activity: On the day of the procedure, your child must stay in bed except to go to the bathroom. The next day, only quiet activity around the house. After 48 hours, your child can return to all normal activities, including sports. Avoid heavy lifting for a week.
- Bath: A bath or shower is permitted 24 hours after the procedure.
- Diet: Start with clear liquids and if tolerated, slowly progress to a normal diet. Your child may feel nausea or vomiting for a few hours after the procedure. If this is the case, offer only clear liquids until the symptoms subside.
- School/daycare: Your child can return after the procedure.

When should I worry?

- Within 48 hours following the catheterization, consult the cardiologist on-call if your child has any of these symptoms: difficulty to arouse, loss of consciousness, paleness and weakness, persistent vomiting, redness at the puncture site, fever and persistent pain.
- If there is bleeding at the puncture site, apply pressure to the site with two fingers for at least 10 minutes, if bleeding persists, call "911" for immediate transport to the emergency room.

Contact information

Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 16:00 p.m.

Cardiology nurses

514-412-4400 ext. 23269

To contact the cardiologist on call

514-412-4400 ext. 53333

Request the pediatric cardiologist on call

Disclaimer: The information provided in this brochure is intended for educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice or instructions of a healthcare professional, nor is it intended to be a substitute for medical care. Contact a qualified healthcare professional if you have any questions regarding your care.