



What is a Hemodialysis Access?

Can you see an arm on this page? Find the words that are bold and underlined in the grid of letters on this page.

1. Before your first **HEMODIALYSIS** treatment, you will need a way for blood to **FLOW** to and from your body.
2. An **ACCESS** is something that allows blood to leave and return to your body.
3. An access is usually created in your **ARM**.
4. A short **SURGERY** is required to create an access.
5. There are different **TYPES** of accesses.
6. A **FISTULA** is made by connecting a **VEIN** to a nearby artery.
7. It may take a few **MONTHS** before a new fistula is ready to use.
8. A **GRAFT** is a manmade tube sewn between a vein and an **ARTERY**.
9. A graft is used when a person's veins are not **STRONG** enough.
10. A graft may be ready to use in just a few **WEEKS**.

11. Another type of hemodialysis access is called a **CATHETER**.
12. A catheter is an access that is surgically placed into a **CENTRAL VEIN**.
13. In most cases a catheter is only **TEMPORARY**.
14. Catheters may not **FUNCTION** as well as a fistula or graft.
15. Catheters usually do not allow a high enough **BLOOD FLOW RATE** for adequate dialysis
16. If your catheter is unable to achieve the prescribed blood flow rate for **ADEQUATE DIALYSIS**, the treatment time will need to be longer.
17. Ask your **DOCTOR** which type of access is best for **YOU**.