

Inferior Vena Cava (IVC) Filter Placement in Cath Lab

What is an IVC Filter?

The inferior vena cava (IVC) is a large vein that carries blood from the lower body to the heart and lungs. The IVC filter is used to trap blood clots before they reach the heart and lungs.

Why do I need this IVC filter?

You are at risk of blood clots.

What are some of the risks with IVC filter placement?

Your doctor will review your risks and let you know how long the IVC filter will remain in your body. Please write any questions to discuss with your doctor.

How is it inserted?

The IVC filter is inserted through a small tube (catheter) placed in your groin or your neck vein. The small tube is guided to the site where the IVC filter will be placed.

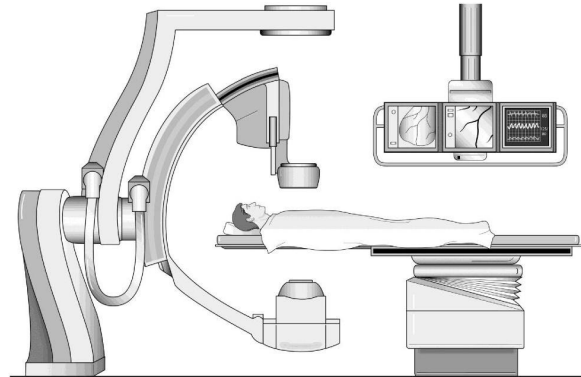
Getting Ready

A nurse will call you a few days before with instructions. Have a list of your medicines and supplements available to review.

The Procedure

Your doctor will tell you which location will be used for the procedure. Your doctor will use numbing medicine where the flexible tube will be placed. You will be given medicine for pain and to make you sleepy. You will be sleepy but able to talk with your doctor and nurse.

In the Cath Lab



After the Procedure

You will return to a room to recover. The flexible tube will be removed, and pressure will be applied to the site. Sometimes a device may be used to stop any bleeding. Your nurse will tell you when it is safe to get out of bed.

Your doctor will tell you if you will go home the same day or stay overnight. You will receive further instructions about your care when you are sent home.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 10/2024 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#8279.