**Insuflon® Subcutaneous Catheter**

**What is an Insuflon® catheter?**
This is a small soft tube placed into the fatty tissue (subcutaneous tissue) of the skin. A needle is used to guide the tube during placement. Once in place, the needle is removed. The tube can be left in place for 3 to 7 days. The number of days is dependent on the amount and type of drug being given through the tube.

**Why is an Insuflon® catheter used?**
Some children need to receive repeated shots of medicine into their subcutaneous tissue. Instead of having to get several pokes into the skin, this small soft tube can be placed. The injections that would normally be given through the skin can be placed into this tube instead. At least 75 injections can be made through the small membrane to provide needed drugs without causing pain.

**How do I insert the Insuflon® catheter?**
The nurse will show you how to prepare your work area so that the supplies stay sterile which is very important to prevent infection. The nurse will show you how to insert the Insuflon® catheter.

1. Prepare a clean work area.
2. Collect supplies.
   - Insuflon® catheter: Check the package to make sure it is not damaged or out of date.
   - Alcohol swab.
   - Wash hands with antibacterial soap.
3. Select insertion site.
   - Outside of the arm
   - Front of the leg
   - Top of the buttocks
   - Stomach: Be sure to place horizontally to avoid skin folds or lines of clothes.
4. Apply topical anesthetic, if desired.
5. Clean site with alcohol swab. Allow the site to dry for at least 2 minutes.
6. Open package.
7. Remove cap.
8. Insert catheter.
   - Hold in one hand like a pen.
   - Use your other hand to pinch the skin at the site of insertion.
   - Use a smooth motion to insert Insuflon® as far in as possible at a 30° - 45° angle.
9. Take out the guide needle. **Be careful not to remove the tubing when removing the needle.** Always hold the tubing hub firmly and pull the needle out slowly.
10. Use the sticky dressing in the kit to attach tubing to your child’s skin. Apply the dressing from the tubing end first. Be sure the insertion site is able to be seen.
11. Dispose of the needle into a sharps bucket.
Once inserted, how does Insuflon® work?
To inject the drug.
1. Collect supplies.
   - Needle must be between 27-31
gauge. It should not exceed 3/8\textsuperscript{th}
inch (8mm) in length. A longer
needle could damage the tubing.
   - Syringe
   - Alcohol swab
2. Fill syringe with the drug. \textbf{Do not} give
multiple drugs through a single
Insuflon® without checking with your
doctor first.
3. Clean hub with alcohol swab. Allow to
dry.
4. Insert syringe needle, with bevel down,
into the Insuflon® hub. The needle must
be in the hub by at least 1/8\textsuperscript{th} of an inch
and not more than 3/8 of an inch.
5. Inject the drug slowly to help reduce site
pain.
6. Remove the needle.

\textbf{Note:} Check Insuflon® daily for skin
breakdown or other problems.

When should I replace the catheter?
1. Change every 3 to 5 days. Choose a site
on the other side of your child’s
stomach, buttocks, or other arm or leg.
2. Never leave in place for more than 7
days.

3. Always be prepared to change the
catheter. You will need to do this early
if any skin breakdown or problems are
noted. Signs to look for are
   - Redness
   - Pain
   - Discomfort
   - Swelling
   - Kinked tubing
   - Loose adhesive
   - Catheter withdrawal where the
tubing is starting to come out.

Always place a new Insuflon® before taking
out the old one. This helps to avoid
contaminating the site. It also helps to
ensure site rotation.

Can my child swim or take a bath with the Insuflon® catheter?
Yes, your child can join in most sports and
swim with this device. Do not disturb the
tubing when your child is in the shower or
bath.

When should I contact my child’s health care provider?
   - Any signs of infection (redness,
swelling, warmth, pus).
   - Problems inserting the catheter.
   - Problems giving medicine.

References
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