

Catheterisation

Factsheet



What is Catheterisation

Catheterisation is the procedure where a specially designed hollow tube is inserted into the urinary bladder via the urethra (Urethral Catheterisation) or through the abdominal wall (Supra Pubic Catheterisation) to drain the bladder of urine

Why is catheterisation necessary?

If urine is no longer able to pass due to obstruction, bladder dysfunction etc., this results in urinary retention (Bladder filling) this can cause pain, extreme discomfort, anxiety and potential kidney failure.

Types of catheters

Urethral	Usage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short term• Long term• Intermediate catheterisation
Urethral	Risks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indwelling urethral catheters (long term catheter use), is associated with increased risk of infection. Evidence supports suprapubic catheters have a lower infection rate• Long term catheter use can be associated with urethral trauma (scarring)
Suprapubic	Usage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If urethral access no longer available• Trauma to urethral meatus• Long term recurring UTI's• Long term living with catheter (increase quality of life - sex life etc.)
Suprapubic	Risks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surgical damage to surrounding structures (large bowel)• Site infection• Surgical encrustation of catheter is not rotated according to protocol

“A catheter is a hollow tube that is used to remove fluid from or instil fluid into, a body cavity or viscus.”
(Pomfret 1996)



Causes of chronic and acute urinary retention (some)

- Prostate enlargement (hypertrophy or Cancer)
- Clots and debris (blood)
- Calculi (stones)
- Trauma (pelvic fracture, foreign body etc..)
- Neurogenic bladder (nerve dysfunction of the bladder)
- Pregnancy
- Post theatre (input / output renal impairment fluid challenge)
- Cancer (bladder and urethral)