

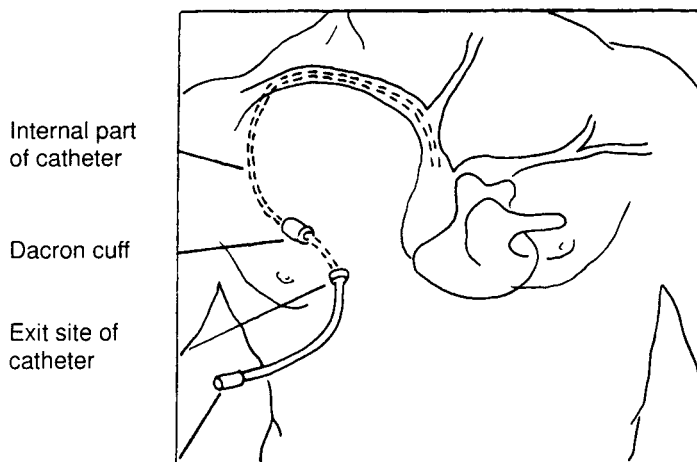
Parenteral Nutrition

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WHAT IS PARENTERAL NUTRITION?

Parenteral (pah-rent-er-ul) nutrition is a kind of tube feeding. A special solution of liquid nutrition is sent through a needle into a vein. The food mixture flows into the blood through the vein.

A special pump makes sure the right amount of food mixture is given.



Depiction of a "tunneled" catheter.

WHY DO SOME PEOPLE NEED TO GET THEIR FOOD THIS WAY?

Sometimes people are not able to eat food normally. Their cancer or treatments have made it hard for their gastrointestinal (gas-trow-intes-tinn-ul) tract to work right.

Your gastrointestinal tract is also called your "GI tract." The GI tract is all the parts of your body used to take food in and send waste out.

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If people can't eat, they start to lose weight and might feel weak. It's important for people having treatments to get the nutrition they need and to feel strong.

Getting enough calories and nutrition can help keep your weight up, and can make you feel stronger. If you feel strong, your body and immune system will be able to handle the treatments better.

WHAT'S IN THE FOOD MIXTURE?

The food mixture is specially developed to have the vitamins, calories, protein, and minerals your body needs. The food also has fats and other nutrients in it.

CAN I STILL EAT?

You might be able to eat and drink small amounts.

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR OR DIETITIAN BEFORE YOU EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING!

They will let you know if it's okay to try.

IS THERE ANYTHING I NEED TO DO?

Yes. Make sure you are careful with the needle and the tubes. The needle will be taped down so it doesn't move, but you still need to move carefully.

If you have any questions, please ask your doctor or dietitian.

NOTES: