

Midline Catheters

AKA - "midline"

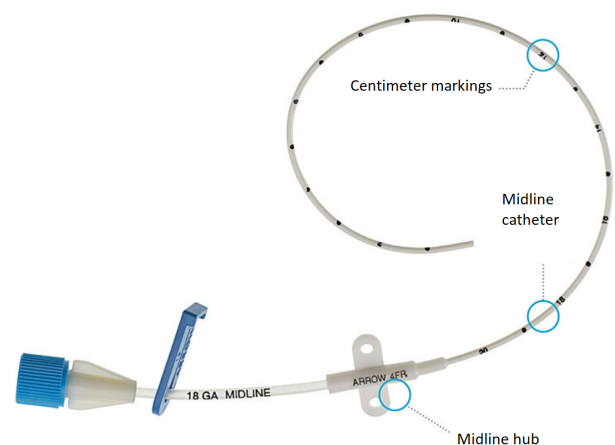
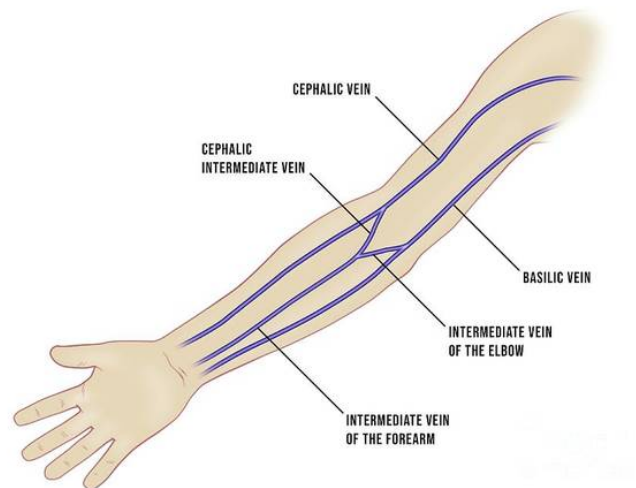
What is it?

A long IV catheter placed into a peripheral vein, usually the basilic or cephalic vein. It can have one or two lumens.

How does it work?

The length of the catheter means it is unlikely to be dislodged.

What does it look like?



What does it do?

- Provides peripheral IV access that can remain in place for a prolonged period (up to 30 days) and is unlikely to be dislodged. This is particularly useful in patients with difficult peripheral IV access.
- Enables venous blood sampling.

What can go wrong?

The most **common** complications → and how to deal with them:

- Occlusion (inability to aspirate or flush)
 - → Most common reason for failure, consider replacement.
- Leaking
 - → Difficult, this may require replacement.
- Infection
 - → Removal and consideration of antibiotics.

The most **serious** complication:

- Occult extravasation
 - → Removal of the catheter and monitoring of the site, consider compartment syndrome.

Key safety point

A midline catheter represents peripheral access and, as such, it is not suitable for medications requiring administration into a central vein.

Other notes

Midline catheters can be left in situ for up to 30 days.