

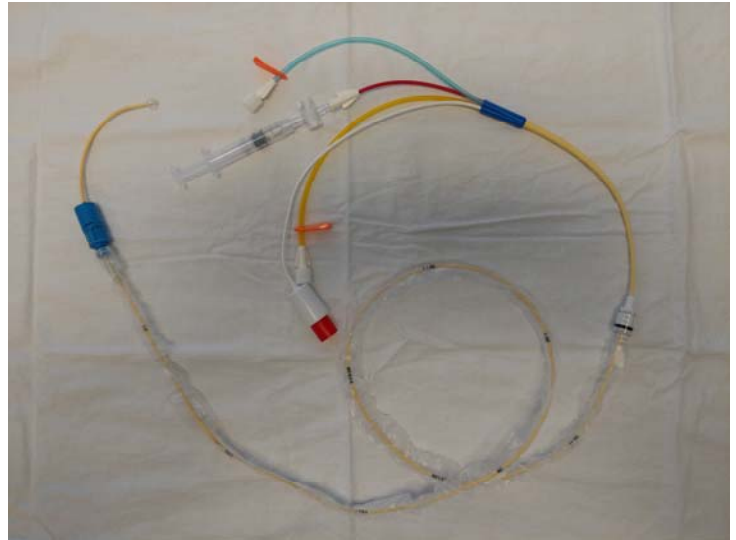
Pulmonary Artery Pressure Monitoring

What is this procedure?

Pulmonary artery pressure monitoring is performed with a soft, multiple-lumen catheter that is inserted into the heart through a central vein.

Why is there a need to do it?

The catheter is placed with its tip sitting in the pulmonary artery (the blood vessel that carries blood from the right side of the heart toward the lung). It allows measurement of pressures inside the heart and finds out how well the heart is pumping. Doctor can then adjust fluid replacement and drugs according to the measured readings. In some situations, drugs will be administered through this catheter.



How is it done?

Before the Procedure

1. Doctor will fully explain the procedure to you if condition allows.
2. You will be positioned flat in the bed.
3. Doctor may give you pain killer or medicine to help you relax.

The Procedure

1. You are required to stay still during the procedure. You may be asked to turn your head to the side and you will be covered with a sterile (clean) drape to keep the equipment clean. You can breathe normally through the side of the drape if you are awake.
2. Doctor will insert the catheter through a large vein. You will feel some pressure in the area the catheter goes in, but you should not feel pain. Let the doctor know if you feel shortness of breath or pain.
3. The catheter is connected to infusion and measurement devices. Pressure readings and other data are measured during the procedure.

After the Procedure

1. A chest x-ray is usually needed to check for the position of the catheter.
2. You are required to stay in bed while the catheter is in use.
3. The nurse will apply a dressing on the catheter to secure it, but you still have to move very carefully.
4. You or your family members must not pull onto the catheter.

Follow Up

1. Doctors and nurses will monitor your condition closely and may do measurements through the catheter from time to time.
2. The catheter is usually kept in place for several days. Doctor will remove the catheter as soon as it is not required.

Risks and Complications

1. Cardiac arrhythmia (change in the rhythm of heartbeat)
2. Injury to the heart or major blood vessel
3. Injury to the lung
4. Thrombosis (blood clot in the blood vessel)
5. Infection
6. Bleeding
7. Air embolism (air trapped in a blood vessel causing blockage)

Other treatment options

Non-invasive monitoring device may be used in some occasions to monitor your heart function. Let your doctor explains to you.

Disclaimer

Information in this leaflet is for general information only and does not replace discussion with the doctor. The list of complications is not exhaustive. For further information, please contact your doctor.