

TMA Vascular Access Center

1597 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA

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April 2016 Newsletter

Meet the Staff:

The TMA Vascular Access Center in Bridgeville, PA is staffed with Interventional Nephrologists, RN's and Interventional Techs as well as an Administrative Assistant. Their expertise enables your procedures to be done in a safe, comfortable and pleasant environment. When your dialysis Dr. determines that your arm access (fistula or graft) or catheter needs evaluated for poor function they will give us a call. At our state of the art facility, your vascular access will be assessed and treated in a warm and professional environment.

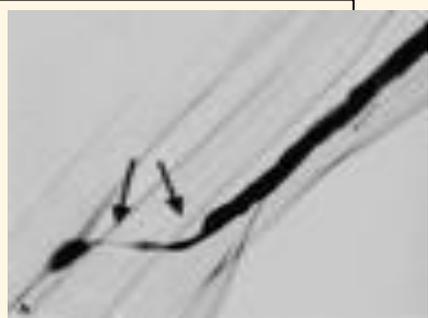


Figure 1

Question of the Quarter????

What are 3 different types of Hemodialysis Accesses?

What is a stenosis in your Fistula?

When you had the surgery to create your fistula, the surgeon joined an artery to a vein. This resulted in the vein to be able to increase in size. The dialysis staff could successfully insert needles (cannulate) and connect you to the dialysis machine at prescribed settings to filter out impurities from your body. Frequently, narrowing can occur in the fistula causing a problem with needle insertion, adequate filtering and poor blood flow through it. This narrowing is called a **STENOSIS**.

See figure 1.

What causes a stenosis?

Causes of a stenosis include:

- Needles being placed in the same spot each dialysis
- Progressive narrowing of the venous outflow vein
- High turbulent flow of blood through the fistula
- Post- surgical narrowing in the artery-vein connection site from handling vessels during surgery

Treatment:

Angioplasty can be done to "open the narrowing" if it is warranted. The Interventional Nephrologist determines the best way to proceed to ensure fistula preservation.

You should use different needle sites (cannulation) each dialysis treatment unless you are using the "Button Hole" technique.

TMA Vascular Access Center (www.tmaaccess.com)

Efficacy rate (success rate) over the past 7 ½ years since our opening is 99.97% for all procedures!!!!!! Our complication rate 1.6% is well below national standards which is listed as 5%.