What is a Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)?
A PICC is a long, hollow tube that is inserted into one of the veins in your upper arm with the tip of the PICC sitting in a central vein in your chest.

PICCs can remain in place for up to 24 months. This procedure is usually performed if you require long term intravenous access, total parental nutrition (TPN) or have difficult venous access and require frequent blood samples.

What to Bring:
Bring any relevant imaging scans (film packet or a CD containing X-rays, CT scans, ultrasound or MRIs etc.).

Eating/ drinking:
You may eat and drink prior to your procedure.

Medications:
Tell staff at the time of booking if you are taking any:

- Blood thinning medications (e.g. Warfarin, Xarelto, Rivaroxaban, Pradaxa, Apixaban, Eliquis),
- Antiplatelet medications (e.g. Clopidogrel, Plavix, Aspirin)

You will be informed if you need to stop taking these medications before your procedure.

Continue taking other medications as prescribed, unless directed otherwise by medical or nursing staff prior to your procedure.

Please bring a list of all your medications with you to your appointment.

Procedure:
On arrival to the radiology department our staff will discuss with you your medical history and ask you to change into a patient gown.

The doctor will explain the procedure and discuss with you the potential risks and you will be asked to sign a consent form.
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During the procedure you will be lying on your back. A tourniquet will be placed around your upper arm and the ultrasound will be used to identify the appropriate vein to be used.

Your arm will be cleaned with an antiseptic wash and local anaesthetic will be injected into the skin on the upper arm. A small needle will be inserted through the numb patch of skin into the selected vein. A wire will be inserted through the needle and the needle removed. Following this, a short plastic tube called a sheath will be inserted over the wire. You may feel some slight pressure while inserting the sheath but it shouldn’t be painful. Once in place, you should not feel any pain or discomfort for the remainder of the procedure.

The PICC will then be inserted through the sheath and an x-ray image will be taken to confirm correct position. Once confirmed, the sheath will be removed and the PICC will be secured with a dressing.

Discharge
Generally you will be able to go home the same day as your procedure if you have no other medical conditions/concerns that require further treatment.

You will be provided with an information sheet regarding discharge instructions and how to care for your PICC at home upon discharge.

Results:
The procedure report will be sent to your referring doctor.

Radiation Risk
Most medical imaging tests, except MRI and ultrasound, involve exposure to radiation from X-rays. Your doctor considers that the benefits of the examination you require to be greater than the small risk posed by the radiation exposure.

Please advise us at the time of booking and/or at the time of your procedure if you think you might be pregnant.

Contact information:
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References:
Inside Radiology: The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®