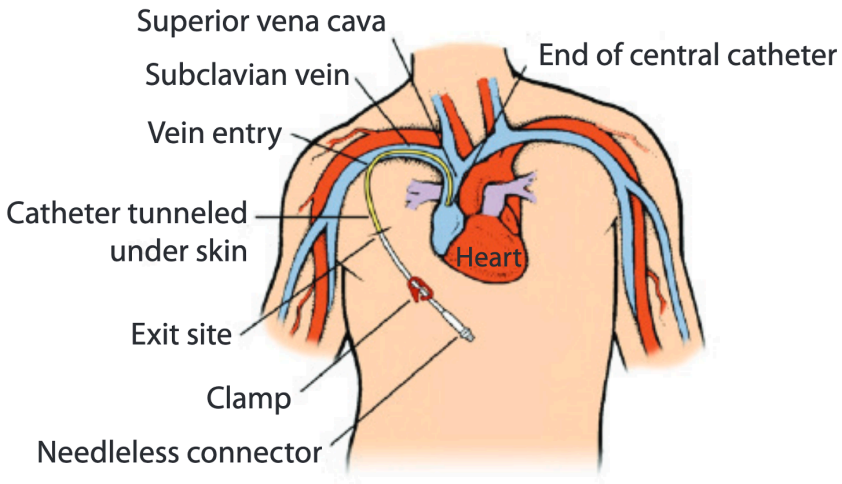
Tunneled CVAD Catheter

Tunneled Catheters (Broviac, Hickman, Leonard, Groshong)



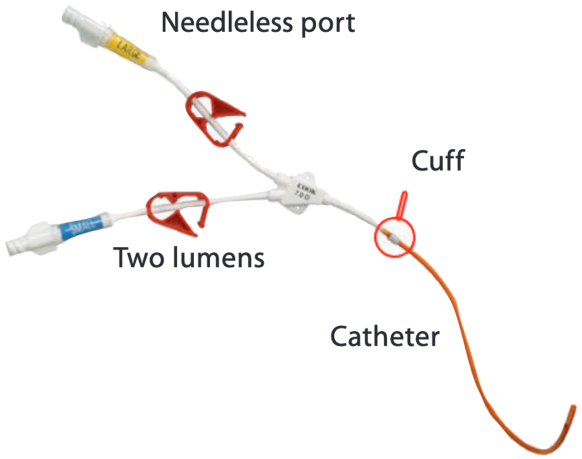
Tunneled CVAD Catheter

For a skin-tunneled catheter, a small cut is made on the chest, usually near the collarbone. The tip of the catheter is advanced into a large vein leading to the heart. The other end of the catheter is threaded under the skin and brought out through a small cut on the chest. Most catheters will contain a cuff that lies under the skin at the entry site. After placement, there will be a dressing over the insertion site. A tunneled catheter can be left in place for years with proper care.

The care involved with a tunneled catheter includes:

- The tubing lies outside the body on the chest.
- The cuff helps secure the catheter, so it rarely slips out.
- The sterile dressing and needleless connector are changed at least every 7 days. Once healed, catheters may not need a dressing.
- The tube has to be flushed regularly, sometimes daily.
- The entry site should not get wet—you must cover it during showering and bathing.

Broviac CVAD with dressing and tubing looped up and secured to chest



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