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a better way to care

WAVELINQ Arteriovenous Fistula The Info Sheet



Scan the QR Code for a video
explaining your WAVELINQ
Arteriovenous Fistula Treatment Journey



WAVELINQ Arteriovenous Fistula Creation

What is an AV Fistula?

An Arteriovenous (AV) Fistula is a connection made between an artery and a vein, usually in your upper arm, using the basilic or cephalic vein. This allows blood to flow quickly from the artery into the vein. The increased blood flow helps the vein grow larger, making it strong enough for dialysis access.

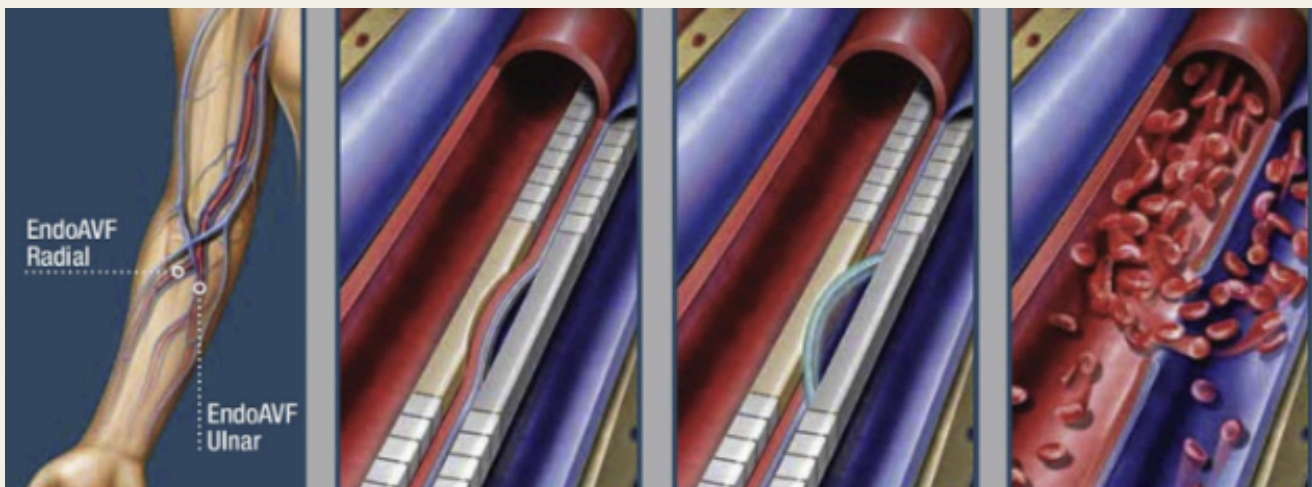
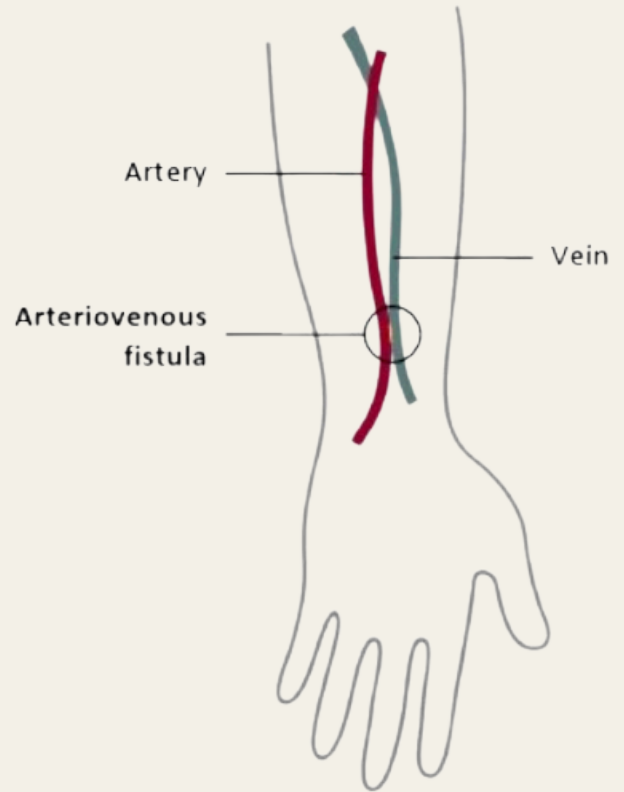
How is an AV Fistula Created?

Dr. Murthy will insert small tubes with magnets into the artery and vein in your wrist. The tubes have magnets that get activated and create a small non visible cut underneath the skin. This AV fistula creates increased flow in the vein that can be used in dialysis.

One week later you are brought in for a coiling of one of the vein to divert the blood to the vein that dialysis will occur through.

Why Choose a WavelinQ AV Fistula for Dialysis Access?

The WavelinQ AV fistula offers a safer, more comfortable, and less invasive alternative to traditional surgery, especially for patients who prefer minimal scarring and faster recovery.



Benefits of WavelinQ

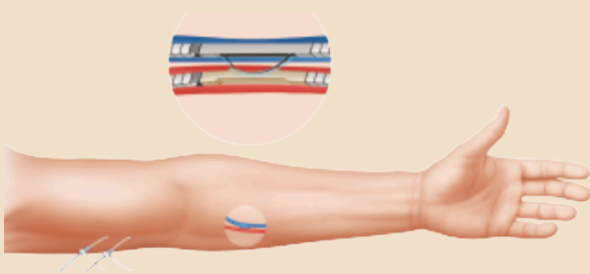
- Minimally Invasive
- No Surgical Incisions
- Faster Recovery
- Improved Comfort
- Reliable for Dialysis
- Fewer Complications

WavelinQ™ EndoAVF

Two thin devices create a connection between your vein and artery. The devices are removed from the body once the connection is created.



1. The doctor inserts two thin devices into the artery and the vein through small needle punctures.



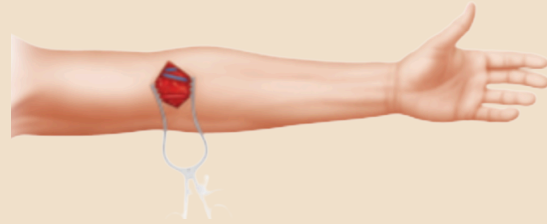
2. Magnets align the devices and a connection is made between the vein and artery. The doctor then removes the devices.



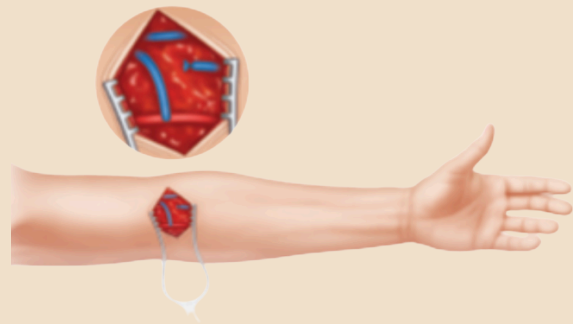
3. The arm heals without stitches with little to no scarring.

Surgical AVF

A surgeon dissects one of your veins with a scalpel and sews it to one of your arteries during an open surgery.



1. A surgical cut is made with a scalpel.



2. A vein is dissected, moved, and sewn into an artery.



3. The arm heals without stitches with little to no scarring.

Your AV Fistula Journey

Step 1: Fistula Mapping & Consultation

We'll start with an ultrasound to check the veins and arteries in your arm. This helps determine if you're a good fit for the AV fistula procedure. This is done during your first visit with the physician.

Step 2: Determining If You're a Candidate

If you're not a candidate: We'll refer you to a vascular surgeon to explore other treatment options.

If you're a candidate: You'll move forward with the minimally invasive WavelinQ procedure to create your fistula.

Step 3: 1-Week Follow-Up Ultrasound

One week after the procedure, we'll check your fistula with an ultrasound to ensure it's starting to mature and work properly.

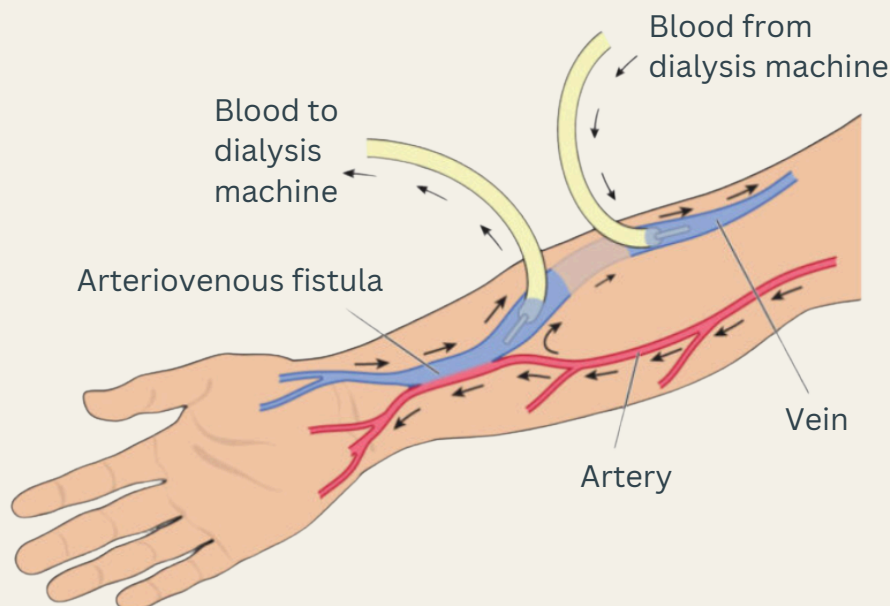
You might feel mild discomfort, but this step is key to tracking your healing.

Step 4: Coiling Procedure

If we need to improve blood flow or close smaller veins, you may need a coiling procedure. This typically happens within a week of your follow-up ultrasound.

Step 5: Monitoring After Coiling

- If coiling was done, we'll check your fistula with another ultrasound to ensure it's maturing properly.
- If it's maturing: Follow-up ultrasounds will be scheduled at 1 week, 4 weeks, 6 weeks, 3 months, and 6 months to track progress.
- If it's not maturing: Additional procedures may be needed within a week to improve blood flow and support maturation.
- Once your fistula matures, we'll follow the same check-in schedule to ensure it's functioning well for dialysis.



AV Fistula Creation Procedure: FAQs

What happens during my appointment?

Initial Consultation and Ultrasound:

- Purpose: To see if you're a candidate for an AV Fistula.
- Duration: About 1.5 hours.
- What to Expect: You'll have an ultrasound with a technician, followed by a consultation with Dr. Murthy. If eligible, you'll be scheduled for the procedure.

Procedure:

- Duration: 30-45 minutes.
- Coiling (if needed): A separate 15-minute procedure on a different day.
- Comfort: Minimally invasive, with local anesthesia and moderate sedation to keep you comfortable.

Pre-op and Recovery:

- Prep Time: 20 minutes.
- Recovery Time: About 45 minutes.

What should I know about the diagnostic tests?

Ultrasound Test:

- Duration: 45 minutes.
- Purpose: To check if the fistula is working properly.
- Results: Available shortly after and reviewed with Dr. Murthy.

Will it hurt? Do you use Anesthesia?

You may feel a jolt as the AV magnets connect. The initial needle stick to numb the area of catheter insertion may sting and you may feel some additional pressure as the catheters are inserted.

Moderate sedation is also used to keep you calm and comfortable.

What are the potential risks and side effects?

- Anesthesia Risks:
 - Local anesthesia ensures no pain during the procedure.
 - Moderate sedation has rare risks like cardiac events, stroke, or death, but these are highly unlikely due to our thorough pre-procedure assessments.
- Side Effects:
 - Mild bruising or swelling at the procedure site is common.
 - Rare complications include infection or blood clots.
- Recovery:
 - Most patients recover quickly and can return to light activities within a few days.

What happens if I don't have the procedure?

- Without an AV Fistula, dialysis access may become challenging.
- Reliable vein access is essential for dialysis, and delaying treatment can make starting dialysis more difficult and prolonged.

When can I resume normal activities?

- After the Procedure:
 - Most daily activities can be resumed after a few days.
 - Avoid heavy lifting or intense physical activity for a few weeks while the fistula heals.
- After Follow-up Coiling (if needed):
 - Recovery is quick, and normal activities can usually resume shortly after.

AV Fistula Creation Procedure: FAQs

When should I be concerned?

Keep an eye out for signs that your AV Fistula isn't working properly, such as:

- Swelling, redness, or pain around the fistula site.
- A weak or absent pulse in the fistula vein.
- Difficulty during dialysis.
- If you notice any of these, contact our office.

How many follow ups will I have?

- You will be scheduled for approximately 4 follow up appointments.
- At 4 weeks, 6 weeks, 3 months, and 6 months post procedure.

What happens at the follow up appointments?

At your first follow up, an ultrasound will be performed to ensure proper maturation of your fistula, if we find that it is not properly functioning or maturing, a second coiling procedure may be scheduled.

If we find it to be functioning well and maturing adequately, each follow up thereafter will just be to ensure it's maintaining the function as you go through with your dialysis.

Understanding Pain and Sedation During Your Procedure

Everyone experiences pain and sedation differently, and your comfort level during the procedure can depend on several factors, including your body's response to anesthesia. For example, individuals who regularly consume alcohol, cannabis or those living with chronic pain may require adjustments to achieve the right level of sedation.

Our goal is to ensure you are as comfortable as possible while keeping your safety our top priority. While we aim to provide effective pain relief, it's important to recognize that over-sedation carries certain risks, which our medical team carefully monitors and manages.