Saline Lock

A saline lock is used to provide IV access in patients who do not require continuous infusion of solutions and administration of multiple medications is not anticipated. If a saline lock is in place, it may be used to administer one to two medications in an emergent situation, prior to connecting a primed IV line.

» Indications

- Any patient where placement of a prophylactic IV line is appropriate

» Contraindications

- Patient presentations which may require IV fluid replacement or multiple IV medication administrations
- Patients requiring administration of D50

» Equipment

- IV start pak or equivalent
- Intravenous catheter of appropriate gauge (not to be used with 24 gauge catheters).
- Saline lock catheter plug with short extension
- 3ml syringe
- Sterile normal saline (3-5ml)

» Procedure

1) Explain the procedure to the patient.
2) Remove catheter plug and attached extension set from package and prime with normal saline.
3) Prepare the site for venipuncture.
4) After venipuncture, secure extension set to hub of catheter and affix to patient's skin.
5) Prep rubber stopper on saline lock, insert needle, and slowly flush with at least 3ml of normal saline while observing for signs of infiltration.
6) While injecting the last .2ml of normal saline, continue exerting pressure on the syringe plunger while withdrawing the needle from the saline lock.
7) If a medication is administered via the saline lock, flush with at least 3ml of normal saline following administration of the medication.

NOTE: If the patient requires fluid bolus or administration of multiple medications, remove saline lock and secure primed IV tubing to catheter.