



## Bladder Irrigation with Gentamicin (Garamycin)

### What is urinary catheter antibiotic bladder irrigation?

Irrigation is a procedure to open a plugged urinary catheter. Normal saline and antibiotics are inserted into the catheter to remove the plug, so that the urine can drain from the bladder and treat infections.

### How is the irrigation done?

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds, rubbing all surfaces briskly, or use an alcohol hand sanitizer.
  - Gather equipment
  - Baby wipes or wipes
  - 60 ml catheter tip syringes (2)
  - clean towel
  - connection cover for drainage tubing
  - Normal Saline/Gentamicin irrigation (as prescribed by your physician).
2. Open a sterile catheter tip syringe package. Keep the tip sterile--**do not** let it touch anything.
3. Draw up a syringe full of antibiotic irrigation solution.
4. Place syringe of tap water back into packaging to keep the tip sterile.
5. Place a towel under the catheter.
6. Using a wipe, clean the connection site between the catheter and the drainage tubing. Let it dry. Do not fan or blow on it.
7. With a gentle twist, disconnect the catheter from the drainage tubing. Cover the end of the tubing with a connection cover to keep it clean.
8. Insert an empty syringe into the catheter. Gently pull back on the plunger to see if any urine is in the bladder.
9. If urine comes out, use the syringe to gently empty the bladder.
10. Remove the syringe from the catheter.
11. Insert the syringe of tap water into the catheter.
12. Gently push on the plunger of the syringe to slowly push antibiotic irrigation into the catheter.  
**Do not force the irrigation solution into the catheter.**
13. If the irrigation solution does not flow easily into the catheter, gently pull back on the plunger with one hand while holding the syringe steady with the other to aspirate (withdraw) fluid, using very little force. If you are unable to aspirate or irrigate the catheter, call the doctor.
14. After inserting the antibiotic irrigation solution into the catheter, cap off the catheter and keep it in the **bladder for 30 minutes**.
15. Drain the catheter after 30 minutes.
16. Clean the connection site between the syringe and the catheter with a fresh wipe. Let it dry. Do not fan or blow on it.
17. Remove the cap from the drainage tubing. Scrub the tip of the tubing with a fresh wipe. Let it dry. Urinary catheter irrigation
18. Remove the syringe from the catheter and insert the connecting tubing.



19. Check the tubing after reconnecting to see if urine is flowing out of the catheter. If no urine is flowing after 10 to 15 minutes, repeat the irrigation process. If there is still no urine coming out, call the doctor.
20. Wash your hands again.

### **What else do I need to know?**

To clean the catheter tip syringe:

1. Mix two solutions:
  - Dish soap and water
  - Solution of 1 part liquid bleach to 50 parts water (1 teaspoon liquid bleach to 1 cup water). Use pure, fragrance-free, additive-free bleach, Clorox®. Do not use other products.
2. Take apart the syringe.
3. Rinse the syringe parts and connection cover with water.
4. Wash the parts in soapy water.
5. Rinse with water to remove the soap.
6. Soak in bleach solution for 30 minutes.
7. Rinse well with water.
8. Air dry on a clean towel. Change the towel every day.
9. If you cannot get the syringe clean, throw it away and use a new one.

### **When should I call the doctor?**

- the flow of urine stops, your child has been drinking enough fluids, and you have irrigated the catheter
- you are unable to irrigate the catheter

### **Questions?**

Instructions for catheter irrigation are specifically for patients of the undersigned provider. If complications persist, please give the office a call at **614 293 8155**