

WELCOME TO THE VASCULAR ACCESS CENTER

AT
KIDNEY AND HYPERTENSION
CONSULTANTS, INC.

► *The information
contained in this
pamphlet is designed
to put you at ease by
providing as much
information as
possible to anticipate
your questions and
needs regarding our
procedures.*



Patient
INFORMATION

► **Appointments:**

Appointments are scheduled by your nephrologist through the Vascular Access Coordinator. You will be notified by phone or while you are at dialysis. Should it be necessary to miss an appointment, please notify us in advance if possible. You can contact the Vascular Access Coordinator at 330-491-7066.

► **AV Fistula & AV Graft:**

An **AV Fistula** is an internal access surgically created using the patient's own blood vessels. The artery and the vein are connected, which causes the vein to become enlarged, allowing for placement of a needle for the dialysis treatment. The AV fistula can be placed in the upper or lower arm.

An **AV Graft** is used when a patient is not a candidate for a fistula. The AV graft is usually made of a synthetic material. The graft is also surgically inserted into the upper arm or forearm. If the arm cannot be used, the chest or upper leg area may be utilized.

► **Catheters:**

Catheters are inserted in the internal jugular, subclavian, and femoral veins. The physician uses a local anesthetic to insert the catheter and fluoroscopy to facilitate proper placement of the catheter. All catheters are prone to infection. The two types of catheters are Temporary and Tunneled.

Temporary catheters are for short-term use only and can be used immediately.

Tunneled catheter is a semi-permanent catheter typically used until an AV graft or AV fistula is mature and ready to be used.

► **Interventional Procedures:**

Angiogram: An angiogram is an imaging test that uses x-rays to view your dialysis access. This is used to study narrow, blocked, enlarged, or malformed vessels. To create the x-ray images, your physician will inject a liquid, sometimes called "dye", through a thin, flexible tube, called a catheter. This "dye", properly called contrast, makes the blood flowing inside the blood vessels visible on an x-ray and help assess for problems within your access.

Angioplasty: This procedure is done if narrowing and blockage is found during the angiogram. This involves a balloon being used to open the vessels that are narrowed.

Stenting: Stent is a permanent device that is left in the vessel to keep the access open or may be needed to help the vessel heal in an open position after the angioplasty.

Thrombolysis/Thrombectomy: Thrombolysis is the treatment to break up abnormal blood clots that are restricting blood flow within the dialysis access. It combines an Angiogram and Angioplasty described already. *Thrombolytic therapy* dissolves these blood clots using various medications administered directly into the clot through a catheter. *Mechanical thrombolysis* is the disruption of a blood clot using one of several mechanical devices. Thrombolysis can greatly improve blood flow and reduce or eliminate the related symptoms and effects without the need for more invasive surgery. Occasionally the access can't be repaired and a catheter will be necessary.

Vein Mapping: This procedure is performed to create a map of your veins in preparation of a dialysis access placement. This involves an IV placed in your hands to inject dye, which makes the blood flowing inside the blood vessels visible on x-rays. The physician then can plan where the best placement is for the fistula or graft.

► **Conscious Sedation:**

Conscious sedation is an altered level of consciousness that still allows the patient to respond to physical and verbal stimulation, and maintain an unassisted airway.

► **Preparation for Procedure:**

- Nothing to eat or drink 6 hours before.
- Do not take morning insulin or diabetic medication
- Bring a list of your medications with you.
- Arrange for transportation to and from the access center.
- Take all other medications with sip of water.

► **Insurance and Payments:**

Billing Department (330) 649-8066

For patients with insurance coverage, including Medicare, we bill most insurance carriers if the proper insurance information is provided. We will also bill most secondary insurance companies for you.

To help us serve you better, you, the patient, must

know how your insurance plan works. Please inform us of **ANY CHANGES** to your insurance policy. Please bring your insurance cards to the office at the time of your appointment. If you are eligible for Medicaid, please bring your card with you at each visit to ensure that we have the correct number and effective date. If there are any changes in your insurance, home address, or phone number, it is your responsibility to notify us.

Please be aware that you are responsible for any balance that has not been paid by your insurance company.

Questions about fees and payments should be directed to the Billing Department personnel. They will be happy to discuss billing questions and payment arrangements with you.

► Confidentiality:

Our staff is trained to respect confidentiality in all matters pertaining to you – medical and financial. No medical records will be released without your written consent. At times there may be an observer in the room for educational purposes.

We pride ourselves in providing the highest quality of medical care in the most efficient and personal manner.

We always try to do our best to avoid any delays that may cause you any inconvenience. We hope you can appreciate that medical emergencies do occur and be patient with us. Please remember that you, the patient, are most important to us.

We appreciate your comments and constructive criticism given politely. Your input is important to us. If we can assist you in any way, please feel free to ask any staff member for assistance.



VASCULAR ACCESS CENTER AT: KIDNEY AND HYPERTENSION CONSULTANTS, INC.

4650 Hills & Dales Rd. NW
Canton, Ohio 44708

Phone Number: (330) 491-7066
Billing Department: (330) 649-8066
www.kandh.org

Patient INFORMATION



VASCULAR ACCESS CENTER AT: KIDNEY AND HYPERTENSION CONSULTANTS, INC.

DIRECTIONS:

FROM THE NORTH:

Take 77 South to the Everhard exit 109. Turn right on Everhard. Stay on Everhard until Dressler Road, turn left onto Dressler Road. Go through 3 lights (Belden Village St., Munson & Fulton). Turn Left at the Hills & Dales light. 4650 Hills & Dales will be on the right.

FROM THE SOUTH:

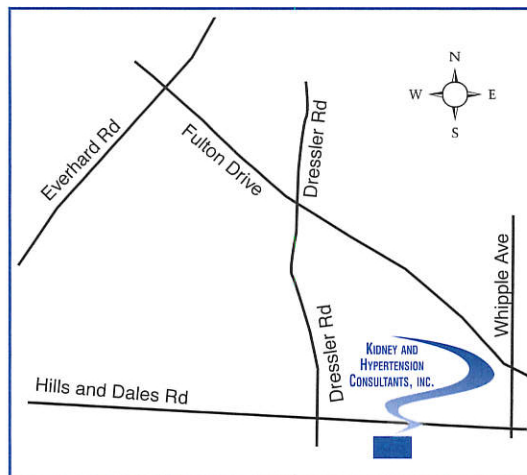
Take 77 North to the Fulton Rd Exit. Turn left on Fulton. Stay to the left onto Hills & Dales at the Fulton Drive and Hills & Dales intersection. Follow Hills & Dales across Whipple and past Acme. 4650 Hills & Dales will be on your left.

FROM THE WEST:

Take 30 E. to 77 North. Follow 77 North to the Fulton Rd Exit. Turn left on Fulton. Stay to left onto Hills & Dales at the Fulton Drive and Hills & Dales intersection. Follow Hills & Dales across Whipple and past Acme. 4650 Hills & Dales will be on your left.

FROM THE EAST:

Take 62 West to the Fulton Rd/77 South exit. Exit on to the Fulton Road Exit. At the light on Fulton, Turn right. Stay to the left onto Hills & Dales at the Fulton Drive and Hills & Dales intersection. Follow Hills & Dales across Whipple and past Acme. 4650 Hills & Dales will be on your left.



INFORMATION
Patient

VASCULAR ACCESS CENTER AT: KIDNEY AND HYPERTENSION CONSULTANTS, INC.

*Practice Limited to Diseases
of the Kidney and Hypertension*

Anthony J. Degenhard, D.O.

James M. Rajan, M.D.

Dayanand Makey, M.D.

Bhavnish Bucktowarsing, M.D.

Phone Number:
(330) 491-7066

Billing Department:
(330) 649-8066

Fax Number:
(330) 491-7073
(330) 649-9901

4650 Hills & Dales Rd. NW.
Canton, Ohio 44708
www.kandh.org

Access Center Hours:
Monday thru Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm