

What is an IV start?

Let's find out!
Scroll down to learn more about an IV start

Saint Joseph's Children's Hospital
Marshfield, Wisconsin

What do you think an IV is? No...it's not a type of plant that grows. An IV helps you get medicine into your body through a special straw. IV means Interavenous or "into the vein."



Sometimes the nurses put special lotion on the tops of your hands and on the insides of your arms. The nurses will cover this lotion with a see through sticker. If you have this lotion on the nurses will take off the sticker and lotion before they start. This lotion is called EMLA and helps make the area numb so you may not feel the IV "poke" as much.

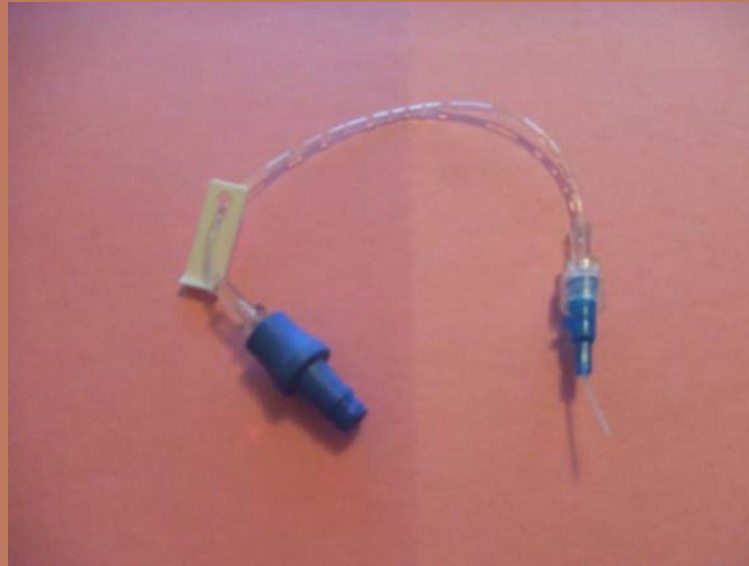
First the nurse will use a stretchy rubber band, called a tourniquet, that will give your arm a TIGHT hug. Do you know why they need to use the rubber band? When the rubber band gets tight around your arm, it makes your veins (or blue lines) in your hands and arms easier to see. Can you find your veins?



Once the nurse finds a good vein he/she will use special soap to clean the area around your vein. It is VERY important that you do not touch the area by your vein because we do not want to get ANY germs by your vein where the nurse puts in your IV. Before the nurse puts in your IV, he/she will rub the special soap on your skin which will feel a little cold and may smell kind of stinky!



Next the nurses will need to put a TINY straw into your vein to give your body medicine. The straw the nurses and doctors use is very bendy so it needs some help getting into your vein. A needle is used to help guide the straw into your vein. Do you see the small hole in the straw below? The needle has to fit into that tiny hole! Once the straw is in your vein the needle comes out and is thrown in the garbage so only the tiny straw is left!



Some children say when the needle guides the straw into your vein it feels like a bee sting or really tight pinch. You will have to tell your nurse or Child Life Specialist what you think it felt like when you are all done!

Did you know that you have a job to do while the nurse puts your IV in? Your job is to hold your arm **VERY** still while the nurse is putting the straw into your vein. We want the nurse to get the straw in your vein right away so they don't have to try again. You can wiggle your toes, take deep breaths, or squeeze a ball, but you need to keep your other body parts **REALLY** still! Sometimes our veins are tired when we are sick and it may take a few tries to get the IV to work.



After the nurses get the IV into your vein you still need to hold VERY still until they tape the IV on to your hand. Your IV needs to be taped so that it stays in your vein. You can have a cool sticker or band-aid to put over your IV if you would like!



The nurse will hook up your medicine to the blue cap at the end of your IV after it is taped. The medicine will move through the tubes and straw into your vein to help your body feel better.



While you are having your IV put in a Child Life Specialist may be able to give you some fun things to do. You can look at books, squeeze a ball, look at pictures or blow bubbles. He/she can also talk to you and explain to you what the nurses are doing during every step. It is YOUR choice if you want to watch the nurses start your IV or look at a book or pictures instead. A Child Life Specialist may also help remind you to stay still, to take deep breaths, and to wiggle your toes. He/she may even show you a band-aid book that you can choose a band aid from when you are all done!



Do you think that you will have to leave your IV in forever? No! Once you are ready to go home the nurses will take your IV out and put a new band-aid where your IV was. When you get home you can show everybody where you had your IV by showing them your band-aid. Cool!



Things to Remember:

Hold very still, wiggle your toes, take deep breaths.

The needle comes out and only the straw stays in your vein.

You can choose whether you want to watch or look at books instead!



Learn more about having an IV started through the interactive website link below.

<http://ivs.starlightprograms.org/index.html>





Saint Joseph's *Children's* Hospital

MINISTRY HEALTH CARE

MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

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