The Baxter Infusor
A guide for patients and their carers
Contents

What is a Baxter Infusor? ........................................ 1
What are the benefits of a Baxter Infusor? ............. 2
What are the risks of a Baxter Infusor? .................. 2
What are the alternatives to a Baxter Infusor? ........ 2
What will happen if you do not have a Baxter Infusor? . 2
How to dispose of an empty infusor ....................... 3
How do you monitor your infusor? ......................... 4
What to do if the infusor is faulty or leaky .............. 3
Other patients’ questions .................................... 4
Information for district nurses ............................... 6

Contacts
If you need advice about the Baxter Infusor or you have any problems with supply, contact The Christie Hotline on 0161 446 3658.
If you have a problem with your central venous catheter or PICC, please contact the Procedure Team on 0161 446 3916.
What is a Baxter Infusor?
This is a lightweight, disposable pump containing chemotherapy. We use it to give a slow, continuous infusion into your bloodstream via a central venous catheter (CVC) or peripherally inserted central venous catheter (PICC). This allows chemotherapy treatment to be given over several days using an infusor for home treatment. The chemotherapy is contained in a balloon reservoir inside a casing. No batteries are used in the infusor and it does not make any noise. (See Fig 1)

1. **Winged cap**
2. **Connector** attaches the infusor to your central line
3. **Flow restrictor** controls how fast your chemotherapy is given
4. **Delivery tubing** carries the chemotherapy to your line
5. **Balloon** holds the chemotherapy
6. **Infusion scale** marks on outside of device showing how much chemotherapy has been given
7. **End cap** seals and protects the infusor system
When filled with chemotherapy, the balloon deflates and slowly pushes the chemotherapy up through the central venous catheter or PICC at a fixed rate. As this happens, the balloon gradually becomes smaller and moves down the scale on the side of the outer casing. If your treatment is continuous, we will give you an appointment to return to the hospital to see your doctor or chemotherapy nurse and have a routine blood test. If the results of this test are satisfactory, we will attach another infusor.

The staff will arrange for the district nurse to visit you at home to disconnect your infusor pumps.

What are the benefits of a Baxter Infusor?
You can have your treatment at home. This allows you to continue with your daily activities rather than having to stay overnight in hospital throughout the treatment.

What are the risks of a Baxter Infusor?
The infusor can occasionally stop working or will empty sooner than anticipated. These problems do not happen often but, if they do occur, you should contact The Christie Hotline for advice (0161 446 3658).

Are there any alternatives to a Baxter Infusor?
You can have your treatment as an inpatient. However, you would then have your treatment using a drip over several days and you would have to stay at the hospital for the duration of treatment.

What will happen if you do not have a Baxter Infusor?
If you do not want to have a Baxter Infusor you should discuss further treatment options with your doctor at The Christie.
How to dispose of an empty infusor
When the district nurse has disconnected the empty infusor, wrap it in a plastic bag and secure the top. Return it to The Christie on your next visit. Do not put the infusor in your refuse bin at home.

How do you monitor your infusor?
You should look at the balloon or scale on the side of the infusor every morning and evening to make sure the infusor is working correctly (See Fig 2). Your district nurse will visit you to disconnect the infusor. If the infusor empties before the district nurse’s visit, switch it off using the clamp on your CVC. If you have a PICC line with a clamp you will need to switch off the clamp. You will not need to do this if you have a PICC line without a clamp.

What to do if the infusor is faulty or leaky
In the unlikely event that your infusor is leaking, do not worry. This very rarely happens but if it does or you are worried about leakage, please contact The Christie Hotline on 0161 446 3658 for advice.
Other patients’ questions

**How do I wear my infusor?**
The infusor is supplied with a bag and a belt which you wear around your waist.

**What do I do if I want to go away for a holiday?**
You should discuss this with your doctor and your chemotherapy nurse. We suggest you do not go abroad while you are having this treatment.

**What do I do if the infusor runs out before my next clinic appointment?**

- **Central venous catheter:** If your infusor is empty a few hours or up to a day before your next clinic appointment, just switch or clamp off your central venous catheter and leave the infusor in place - do not disconnect the infusor.
  However, in the unlikely event that the infusor is empty for more than a day before you are due at clinic, please contact The Christie Hotline for advice. See contact numbers at the front of this booklet.

- **PICC:** If your infusor is empty a few hours or up to a day before your next clinic appointment, please contact your district nurse to remove the infusor.

**Can I have a bath or a shower with the infusor?**
If you normally take a shower you must not get the infusor wet. You can put it into a plastic bag and hang it up on the outside of your shower, away from the water. You will need to use the Aquasept or Hibiscrub solution when you shower as this will reduce the chance of any infection. You can get further supplies from the The Christie. If you wish, you can use your own toiletries such as shampoo or shower gel after using the Hibiscrub.
If you normally have a bath, do not submerge your body under the water fully. You must remain in a sitting position so the bath water does not cover the CVC line site. Do not splash any dirty bath water or use soap on the CVC line site. If you have a PICC line you will need to cover this area with cling film or a plastic bag to keep it dry. You may find it helpful to place the infusor on a chair at the side of the bath so that you have more movement with your line.

**Do not wear jewellery round your neck if you have a CVC line as this could be a source of infection.**

**Wearing an infusor when sleeping**

When you got to bed you can remove your pump from the bag provided and put it into a clean sock. You can use a safety pin to attach the sock to your nightwear. **Be very careful to keep the safety pin away from the line.** This will be more comfortable whilst sleeping. The following day you can remove the infusor from the sock and return it to the infusor bag for daytime wear.

When you get up in the morning, check that the clamp on your line is open.

**Side effects of your treatment**

The chemotherapy nurse will explain about using and wearing an infusor. He or she will discuss any side effects with you as some are specific to your type of treatment.

**Questions about treatment**

If you have any questions about your treatment please ask your doctor at The Christie.
Instructions for district nurses

How to disconnect the infusor on a central venous catheter

To disconnect an infusor connected to a central venous catheter please follow steps 1 - 10 carefully.

For further information, please refer to the green Christie booklet on ‘Care of your central venous catheter’.

Central venous catheter

Proceed as usual to flush the line and lock with Hepsal. See pages 12-15 of the central venous catheter booklet. It is only necessary to withdraw and discard blood if the line has not been used for 3 days or more.

Steps

1. Collect together the following equipment and place on a clean dry surface: sterile gloves, alcowipe, new infusor, small yellow plastic bag and sterile towel.

2. Wash and dry hands.

3. Clamp or switch off the central venous catheter.

4. Open out sterile towel onto a clean surface.

5. Open out alcowipe, put gloves onto it.

6. Wash and dry hands.

7. Put on sterile gloves.

8. Put the sterile paper from the gloves between the patient’s line and skin.
Disconnect the empty infusor by turning anti-clockwise and place it in the yellow bag for disposal. Remember to replace the winged cap to prevent leakage of chemotherapy.

Wipe the end of the central line with an alcowipe, and wait 30 seconds for this to dry before continuing. Flush with 10mls normal saline and 5mls Hepsal using positive pressure. Attach a bung and ensure the clamp is closed. The procedure for disconnecting the infusor is now complete.

Tips

- Ignore small air bubbles within the infusor tubing. They are not harmful.
- If for any reason the infusor has to be disconnected before it is completely empty, a winged cap should always be placed on the end of its tubing to prevent leakage.
- If any of the chemotherapy comes into contact with the patient’s skin, rinse the area with running water and wash with warm soapy water.
- If the chemotherapy spills on to any clothing, advise the patient to wash these items separately from other laundry.
Instructions for district nurses

How to disconnect the infusor on a PICC

To disconnect an infusor connected to a PICC please follow steps 1 to 9 carefully.

A PICC (peripherally inserted central catheter) is inserted directly into a vein in the arm. There are PICC lines with a clamp and PICC lines without a clamp. The type of PICC line without any on/off clamp attached has a one-way valve to prevent any backflow of blood.

For further information, please refer to the purple Christie booklet ‘Care of your peripherally inserted central venous catheter’.

It is only necessary to withdraw and discard blood if the line has not been used for 3 days or more.

PICCs - flush with saline as described on pages 8-12 of the PICC booklet.

It is not necessary to withdraw and discard blood if you are disconnecting an infusor and locking the line.

Steps:

1. Collect together the following equipment and place on a clean, dry surface: sterile gloves, alcowipe, small yellow bag and sterile towel.

2. Wash and dry hands.

3. Open out sterile towel onto a clean surface.

4. Open out alcowipe, put gloves onto it.

5. Wash and dry hands.
6 Put on sterile gloves.

7 Put the sterile paper from the gloves between the patient’s line and skin.

8 Remove the empty infusor from the line by turning the cap anticlockwise and place it in the yellow bag for disposal. If possible, remember to place the winged cap onto the disconnected infusor to reduce any leakage of chemotherapy from the tubing.

9 Wipe the end of the central line with an alcowipe, and wait 30 seconds for this to dry before continuing.

   If the PICC line has a clamp, flush with 10mls normal saline and 5mls Hepsal using positive pressure.

   If the PICC line does not have a clamp, flush with 10mls normal saline using positive pressure.

   The procedure for disconnecting the infusor is now complete.

---

The Christie Website
www.christie.nhs.uk

Many of The Christie booklets and a list of UK help groups are available on The Christie website, the address is above. You can also access other patient information sites in the UK such as Macmillan Cancer Support and Cancerhelp UK via The Christie website.