



Information for You from Your Health Care Team

CVVH (Continuous Veno – Venous Hemofiltration)

Why is CVVH used?

It is a short-term treatment, used in patients with kidney failure. The kidney failure may be new or already present. Hemodialysis (kidney dialysis) is usually done for kidney failure. However, if a patient has low blood pressure, CVVH may be needed.

What would I see in the patient's room?

Outside the room, you would see a cart with IV bags on top. These IV bags are for replacing some of the waste fluid taken off. The CVVH machine is located beside the patient and has several IV bags hanging under it. The CVVH machine has several reading panels and buttons to control blood flow, fluid removal and replacement.

How does the CVVH machine work in basic terms?

A dialysis catheter (like a large IV) is placed in one of the main veins of the body. This catheter has two separate lines. Blood flows out of catheter into the CVVH machine, which then goes into a filter where waste fluid is taken off. Fluids and electrolytes (such as sodium and potassium) are replaced, and then the blood is returned back to the patient through the catheter.

Who sets up and maintains the CVVH?

- ❖ The Nephrologist (kidney doctor) will assess patient and order settings for CVVH.
- ❖ The dialysis nurse will set up the CVVH unit and help troubleshoot any problems with CVVH.
- ❖ The bedside nurse will run CVVH and troubleshoot problems while taking care of the patient.