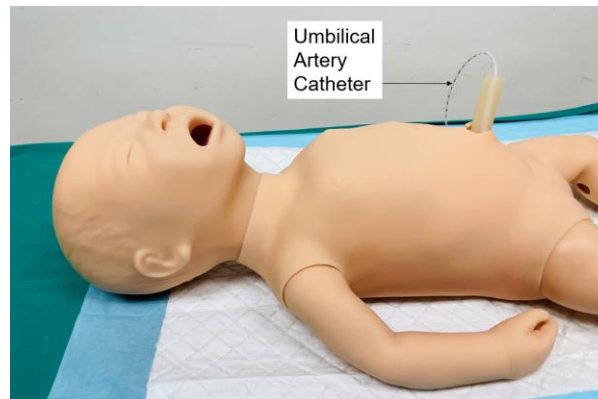




## **Umbilical Artery Catheter Insertion**

### **What is an umbilical artery catheter?**

An umbilical artery catheter (UAC) is a small tube which is put into the artery of the umbilical cord stump (belly button).



### **Why does my baby need a UAC?**

Many babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) have a UAC. A UAC helps in:

- Drawing blood samples
- Administering intravenous fluids
- Monitoring blood pressure
- Exchange transfusions (exchange of blood to treat severe jaundice)

### **How is it done?**

- The baby will be placed on his back.
- The catheter will be carefully put into the artery.
- The catheter will be stitched and taped securely to the baby's belly button so that it cannot be pulled out.
- An X-ray will be taken to make sure the catheter is in the right place. Sometimes adjustments are made following the x-ray.

**There are always risks with any medical procedure.**

### **Some of the risks include:**

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Blood clots formation
- Perforation/puncture of the artery
- Reduced blood supply to certain parts of the body

The doctors and nurses will take all the necessary precautions to ensure that your baby's risks are minimal.

**PATIENTS. AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO.®**

**SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre**

Singapore General Hospital • Changi General Hospital • Sengkang General Hospital • KK Women's and Children's Hospital  
National Cancer Centre Singapore • National Dental Centre Singapore • National Heart Centre Singapore  
National Neuroscience Institute • Singapore National Eye Centre • SingHealth Community Hospitals • SingHealth Polyclinics