

Case Studies: AV Fistula Placement Readiness

Patient A: “I’m just fine, thank you”

Patient thinks that he is doing fine and he doesn’t want another surgery. He sees other patients holding their access sites and they can’t leave as quickly as he can and he feels sorry for them. He also doesn’t want to get stuck and has seen his friend get stuck 3-4 times a treatment and wants no part of more pain. He is not interested in getting a fistula placed and he has had his catheter for two years with no problems.

Patient B: “I don’t want to burden my family”

Patient is frustrated with the staff for suggesting she see a vascular surgeon. She thinks that if she was supposed to have a fistula placed, her nephrologist would have said so before she had the catheter put in. She doesn’t trust the staff and thinks they are just “pushing a fistula to get a bonus.” Besides, she is a single parent with a school-aged son and doesn’t want to have to ask her parents to care for him again so that she can go back into the hospital – they’ve had to help her out too many times since she got ESRD six months ago.

Patient C: “I don’t know what or who to believe”

Patient is confused about whether to get a fistula or not. She likes the graft, is concerned about how she will look after having a fistula placed and she thinks people with a fistula look like drug addicts. She also believes that most staff members don’t like to stick people and that they just ask her to consider getting a fistula because they have been told to do that. She thinks they like patients better who have grafts because they can provide care for them easier.

