

Information for patients and carers

Alteplase (Actilyse Cathflo™ 2mgs) Information for Outpatients

Central Venous Access Team

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy bands of blue color, transitioning from a lighter blue at the top to a darker blue at the bottom.

What is Alteplase (Actilyse Cathflo 2mgs)?

Alteplase (Actilyse Cathflo™ 2mgs) belongs to a group of medicines called thrombolytic agents. These agents dissolve blood clots, medication remnants and build up that can lead to your central venous catheter becoming blocked.

Why do I need Alteplase (Actilyse Cathflo™)

Your central venous catheter is not working as it should, which could be because

- It is sluggish when blood is being aspirated from it
- It is resistant when saline or medications are being administered into it
- It is partially blocked- does not allow blood to be aspirated from it but allows saline and medications to be administered into it.
- It is completely blocked- blood cannot be aspirated from it and saline/medications cannot be administered into it.

We have already tried to get your central venous catheter working by using mechanical means of unblocking it which did not work

We would now like to administer Alteplase (actilyse cathflo) into your central venous catheter to improve its function.

How will it be used on me?

Alteplase (actilyse cathflo) is administered into your central venous catheter where it sits for 60-120 minutes. It is not intended to enter your blood circulation, but we cannot guarantee this. After 60-120 minutes, it will be withdrawn from your central venous catheter along with any residual clot. Your central venous catheter will then be flushed with sodium chloride 0.9% to ensure it allows blood to be aspirated from it and that medications can be administered into it.

If the alteplase (actilyse cathflo) cannot be withdrawn from your central venous catheter after 60 minutes, it can be left in for a further 60 minutes, after which the above steps will be repeated

Is there anything I need to tell the person administering the alteplase (actilyse cathflo) to me

- If you weigh less than 30kgs (4 stone 10.14lb)
- If you have ever had any allergic reactions after being given any medications
- If you have bleeding in any part of your body
- If you have had any of the following in the last 48hrs
 - Surgery
 - Biopsy- a procedure to obtain a tissue specimen
 - Puncture
 - Delivery of a baby

If you are taking any of the following medication

- Any medications that are used to 'thin' your blood (for example warfarin, heparin, apixaban™)
- NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory drugs) (for example aspirin™, Alka-Seltzer™, Ibuprofen™)
- ACE inhibitors (medications used to treat high blood pressure) (for example, ramipril™, enalapril™, captopril™)

Or if you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant.

What are the side effects?

Like all medicines, alteplase (actilyse cathflo) can cause side effects, although not everyone is affected.

The side effects described below have been experienced by people given alteplase (actilyse cathflo)

Uncommon (less than 1 in 100 patients receiving alteplase (actilyse cathflo))

- Release of an infection from the catheter into the blood circulation causing blood poisoning
- Damage to the catheter such as
 - blockage
 - leakage
 - burst

Rare (less than 1 in 1000 patients receiving alteplase (actilyse cathflo))

- Fever

In principle, the following side effects may occur if alteplase (actilyse cathflo) enters your blood circulation

- Bleeding- especially from weak points such as the nose, recent cuts or abrasions
- Sudden blocking of a blood vessel (embolism) (shortness of breath, chest pain, fainting)
- Allergic reaction
- Blood pressure decrease
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Body temperature increase

If you do start to feel unwell after you have been given alteplase (actilyse cathflo), please attend the emergency department straight away.

seek medical advice

Please provide the healthcare professional that you seek medical advice from with the following information:

Drug Given: Alteplase (Actilyse Cathflo™ 2mgs)-1mg/ml

Date and time given:

The side effect/side effects experienced:

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact

Central Venous Access Team Specialist Nurses:

Telephone: **01772 52 3057**

Email: CVAT@lthtr.nhs.uk

Monday-Friday 08:30-16:30

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.4617.pdf>

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

**Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.
This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.**

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

patientexperienceandinvolem@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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