

Assessment of the Mature AVF



“Sleeves Up” Exam

- Assessment of mature forearm fistulas (as well as forearm grafts) should include a monthly “sleeves up” exam of the upper arm, to identify mature outflow veins of the forearm AVF or AVG that might be potential candidates for a future upper-arm AVF (see “Sleeves Up” protocol in Change Concept #6 at FistulaFirst.org)
- If an upper-arm vein appears to be suitable for a future AVF, make note in chart and notify nephrologist and surgeon that the upper-arm vein is available as a new AVF should the existing AVF or AVG fail.

Spergel LS. Protocol. National Vascular Access Improvement Initiative Web site. Available at: www.fistulafirst.org. Accessed June 26, 2006.

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“Sleeves Up” Exam...

Outflow vein (cephalic v.) of failing forearm AV graft is suitable for conversion to AVF

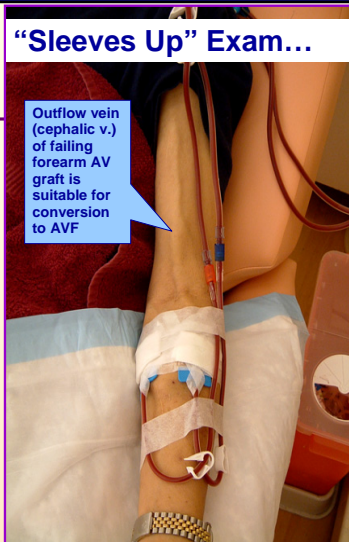


Photo courtesy of L. Spergel, MD

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