

WHAT IS A SUBCUTANEOUS INFUSION?



INTRODUCTION

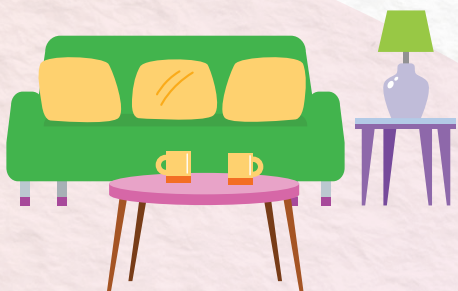
Starting a treatment can be exciting. It can also seem overwhelming if the method of administration is new to you.

It's normal to have many questions, especially if this is your first exposure to subcutaneous infusion therapy. Let's start with the basics.

WHAT IS A SUBCUTANEOUS TREATMENT?

A subcutaneous treatment involves receiving medicine through a needle under the skin. The word "subcutaneous" means "under the skin."

This guide is designed to help answer these kinds of questions about subcutaneous infusions and provide information to help you get comfortable with the subcutaneous infusion process related to your prescribed treatments.



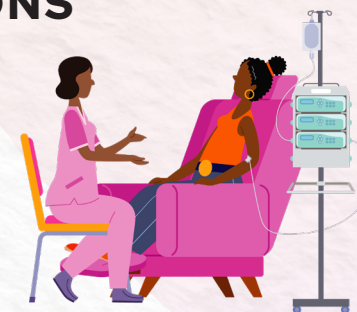
Is infusion therapy common?

Yes, infusion therapy is a common medical treatment for a variety of conditions, including multiple sclerosis, lupus, and infections that may not be responsive to oral antibiotics.

INFUSIONS VS INJECTIONS

INFUSION THERAPY

Injections are typically given either intravenously, intramuscularly, or subcutaneously. Like an injection, an **infusion** also uses a needle to administer medicine.



Intravenous infusion in the arm. ^



^ Subcutaneous infusion in the stomach.

You may be familiar with an "IV" or **intravenous (IV) infusion**. An intravenous infusion usually sends larger amounts of medicine straight into your bloodstream through a vein. Depending on the medication and dosage, an intravenous infusion can take anywhere from 15 minutes to several hours.

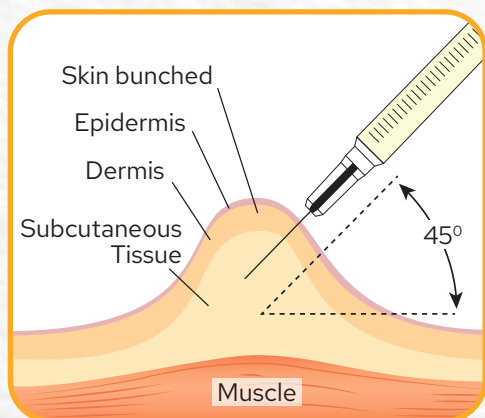
A **subcutaneous (SC) infusion** delivers medicine into the fatty layer of tissue just under the skin using special equipment. A subcutaneous infusion can take as little as 20 minutes, based on medication and dosage.

Certain equipment is needed for a subcutaneous infusion. A typical **infusion set** is a medication delivery system that includes a butterfly needle and a tube attached to a syringe. The butterfly needle is a thin needle with flexible plastic flaps (or "wings") on either side, which make it easier to hold and insert under the skin.

During treatment, an **infusion pump** slowly and continuously delivers medication via the tube system and through the needle under the skin.

INJECTIONS

One of the ways injections can be done is subcutaneously. This involves using a needle and a syringe to administer a liquid form of medicine into the body. Common examples of injections include insulin or allergy shots.



Injections can be done **subcutaneously**. In this case, medicine is administered into the fatty tissue layer **between the skin and the muscle**, usually using a short, thin needle. This type of injection can typically be done in a few seconds.

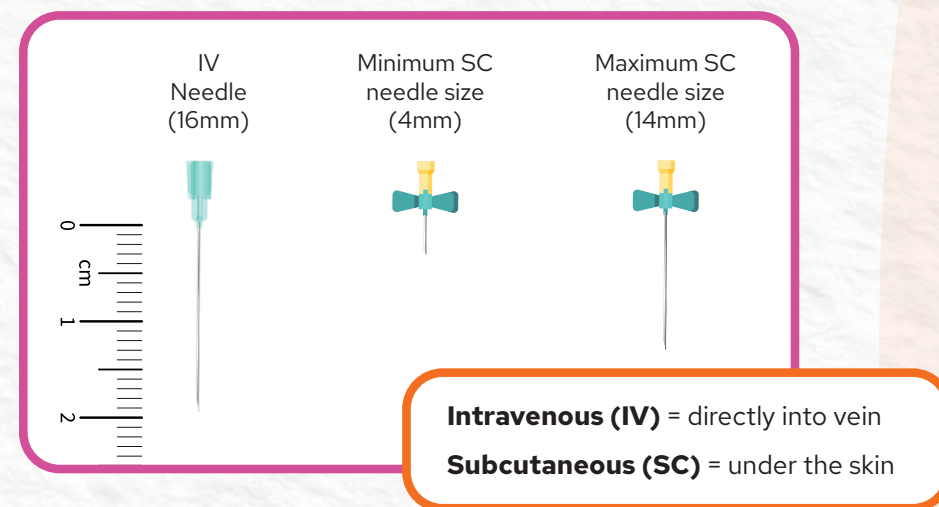
SUBCUTANEOUS INFUSION

Where are subcutaneous infusions given?

Both subcutaneous infusions and IV infusions can be given by a healthcare professional in a clinic, infusion center, doctor's office, and in cases where home infusion is possible, at your home.

Infusion needle comparison

Depending on your size and weight, your doctor will recommend the appropriate supplies.



The illustration above shows specific types of IV and SC needles. Other needles may have different lengths, widths, and gauges.

What can I expect from a healthcare provider (HCP)-administered subcutaneous infusion experience?

If receiving an HCP-administered infusion, you may find it helpful to think of your subcutaneous infusion in three parts:

BEFORE THE SC INFUSION

1

- Prior to your first infusion appointment, plan the logistics: time off work and childcare if needed, how you will get there, and who might help you.
- You can also prepare a bag with items to bring, such as medical documents, snacks, and a water bottle to keep yourself hydrated (depending on your HCP guidance), as well as something to pass the time while waiting, such as a book or music.
- Once you arrive at your appointment, your healthcare provider may check details with you and explain the procedure.
- They'll help you find a comfortable position before the infusion begins.
- They'll prepare the infusion materials and select either the lower right or lower left part of the abdomen below the belly button for the infusion site.

DURING THE SC INFUSION

2

- You will remain in your sitting or semi-reclined position for the duration of the infusion.
- During this time, you can relax and read, listen to music on headphones, or do any other activities you have brought for this time.

AFTER THE SC INFUSION

3

- Your healthcare provider will remove the needle.
- They'll check your infusion site for common reactions, such as swelling or redness.
- Together, you can review your questions or confirm your next infusion appointment, if applicable.
- They'll monitor you during your infusion and for 15 minutes after completion for any clinical signs and symptoms of hypersensitivity reactions.



For more treatment information,
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