





Is Your Access Language a Barrier?

A Top 10+ List of Reasons Why.....not




The following are quotes taken from a survey developed by the Patient Leadership Committee of The Renal Network, Inc. The survey was distributed to hemodialysis patients throughout our Network. Direct questions were asked regarding reasons patients did not have AV fistulas.



Top 10+ Reasons

- “What access would be in my best interest?”
- “There is not enough professional information or input.”
- “I don’t trust the staff to stick me.”
- “I have never been referred for one.”



Top 10+ Reasons

- “The staff does not encourage it.”
- “The surgeon has tried twice and the fistula never developed or matured.”
- “I have poor vessels due to disease.”
- “The doctor told me I can’t have one because of my veins.”



Top 10+ Reasons

- “I tried once and it couldn’t be done. I got a second opinion and will try again.”
- “My skin is too thin.”
- “Had one done and my surgeon said he knew it would clot due to diabetes and it did 3 months later.”



Top 10+ Reasons

- “Had an AV graft installed which by medical records was advised to do in the first place.”
- “My arteries and veins are too small. The result is a graft in my lower arm.”
- “I have very small veins. Three grafts, none have worked. Also had a clotting problem from genetic disease.”



Top 10+ Reasons

"Veins not right for a fistula."

"The doctor told me it probably wouldn't work anyway."

"I tried an AV fistula but it didn't work."

"Nephrology told me my vessels are too clogged up for an AVF."



Top 10+ Reasons

"Nobody can stick my fistula."

"I don't like the way a fistula looks."

"I don't want another surgery."

"I don't like pain."

"I am afraid of needles."



Top 10+ Reasons

"AV fistula takes too much care."

"I am too old."

"I am getting a transplant."

"**They** said "No-one can stick this".