

## Video 10 Types of Hemodialysis Access

### Key Notes

#### **Fistula**

- Connection between artery and vein used for hemodialysis
- Start the process several months before dialysis is needed
- Allow blood to flow from an artery to a vein
- The vein will become the access point for dialysis
- Necessary because veins are naturally too thin for dialysis needles

#### **Grafts**

- If veins are too small for a fistula, a graft is placed instead
- A graft is like a straw that connects two blood vessels
- The dialysis needle will be placed in the graft instead of in the blood vessel

#### **Tunneled Dialysis Catheter**

- Usually temporary if dialysis needs to start before a fistula or graft is placed
- Inserted in the chest area
- Higher risk of infection and blood clots