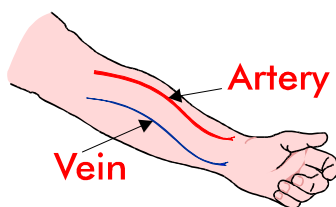
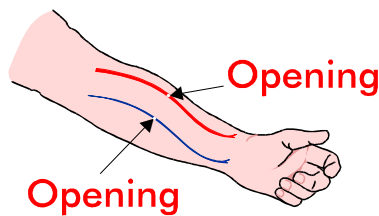


### What is a graft?

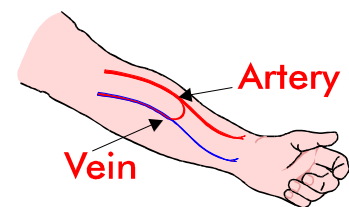
Your body uses arteries and veins to carry the nutrients to your cells and the waste products away from your cells.



The surgeon will make a small opening in a vein and an artery.



A synthetic blood vessel or graft is joined to each of these openings. The synthetic blood vessel is used for hemodialysis. The synthetic material is called a **graft**.

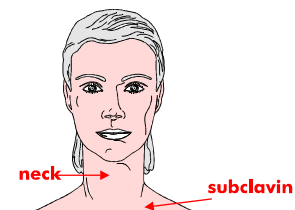


### How do you get the blood out of the fistula or graft?

During your dialysis treatment two needles are inserted into this new blood vessel. One needle will take a small amount of your blood out of your body. This blood goes through the dialyzer. The other needle is used to put the blood back into your body again. After each hemodialysis treatment the needles are removed.

### What if I don't have a fistula or graft and I need dialysis?

Some people need to have a small tube into a vein near your chest or neck before you have fistula or graft that you can use.



### How much blood do you take out of my body?

Only a very small amount of blood is taken out of your body, about the same amount that is in a pop can.

