

Drainage Tube Insertion Discharge Instructions

What are my Care Instructions?

You received local anesthesia during your Radiology Procedure. As the local anesthesia wears off, you may feel some pain and discomfort from your procedure. The area where your procedure was performed may be sore or bruised. If you have pain, don't be afraid to say so. Pain medicine works better if you take it before the pain gets bad.

Follow-up care is the key part of your treatment and safety. Be sure to make and go to all appointments, and call your doctor if you are having problems.

How will I care for myself at home?

Activity

- You may shower 24 hours after your drain tube has been placed. Before showering, cover drain tube dressing with a double layer of plastic wrap and tape edges to skin. After showering remove plastic wrap and change dressing if it has gotten wet.
- No tub baths, swimming or hot tubs.
- Change the dressing every 1-2 days or after a shower using following steps:
 - Wash your hands
 - Remove old dressing
 - Clean around tube with a cotton ball moistened with hydrogen peroxide.
 - Apply antibiotic ointment to skin around the tube.
 - Dress with gauze pads and tape. Be careful not to kink your tube.
- Avoid any activity that causes a pulling sensation or pain around the tube.

Diet

- You can eat your normal diet. If your stomach is upset, try bland, low-fat foods like plain rice, toast and yogurt
- Drink plenty of fluids (unless your doctor tells you not to).

Medications

- You can take your normal prescription medicines as your doctor has instructed you to do.

When should I call for help?

- If the tube falls out, it must be replaced within 24 hours.
 - Cover the hole in the skin with gauze pads and tape.
 - Call Interventional Services in Ultrasound at 734-615-3486 to for instructions on how to get the tube replaced. Interventional Radiology is available 8am and 5pm Monday through Friday.
 - After hours and on Holidays please call 734-936-6267 and ask to speak with the Radiology Superchief on call.
- Call 911 anytime if you have any of the following signs and symptoms:
 - shortness of breath
 - chest pains
 - Loss of consciousness - (if you passed out or fainted)

Call 911 anytime you think you need emergency care.

- Call Interventional Services in Ultrasound at 734-615-3486 between 8am and 5pm Monday through Friday, if you have any of the following signs and symptoms:
 - Increased pain where the tube is inserted
 - Increased or more short of breath
 - Continuous vomiting

- Tube stops draining or the drainage decreases to less than 20 ml's in a 48 hour time frame.
 - Back or abdominal pain which may indicate an infection
 - Fever (greater than 100.6°F) or chills
 - Foul smelling drainage or abnormal bleeding from the tube site
 - Excessive leakage or redness around the tube site
 - Tube falls out
- After hours you can call 734-936-6267, and ask to speak with the Radiology Superchief, pager 1800.

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