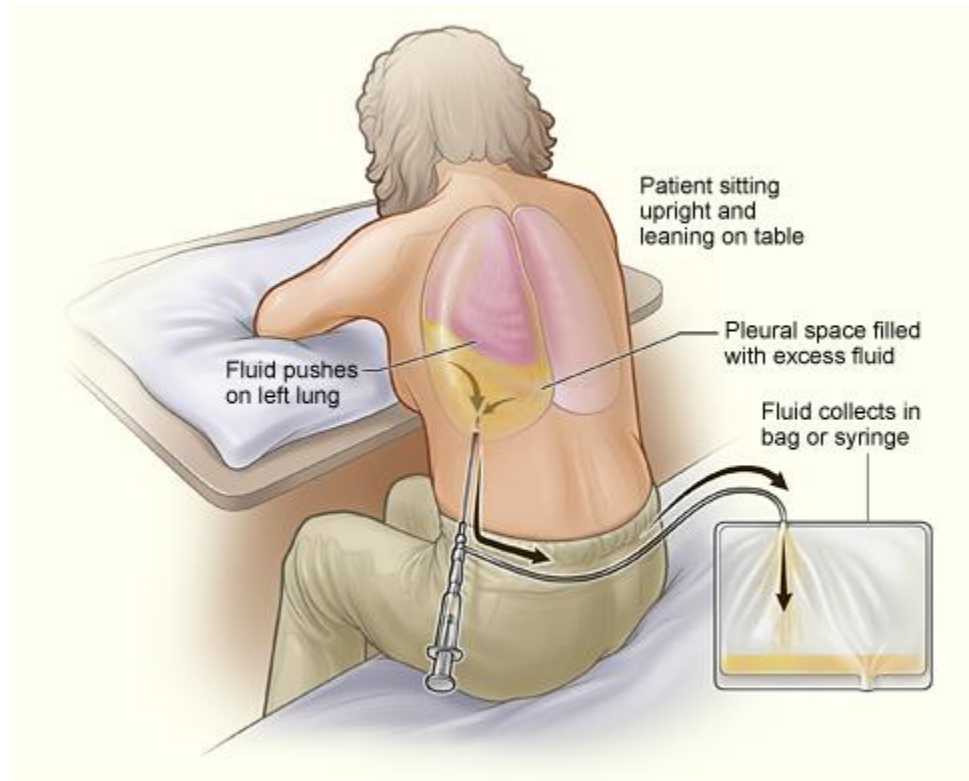


Preparing for a Thoracentesis

What is a thoracentesis?

Thoracentesis (thor-a-sen-tee-sis) is a procedure that is done to remove fluid from around the lung. The lung is covered with a tissue called the pleura. The inside of the chest is also lined with pleura. The space between these two areas is called the pleural space. This space normally contains a thin layer of fluid, however, many conditions (such as pneumonia, some types of cancer,



heart, or kidney diseases) may cause excessive fluid to build up (a pleural effusion). Thoracentesis can help determine the cause as well as provide relief if the fluid is causing breathing difficulty.

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Your procedure is scheduled for:

Date: _____ Time: _____

How long is the procedure?

The procedure takes about 30 minutes but expect your visit to last 1-2 hours to include preparation, and observation in recovery.

How will I prepare for the thoracentesis?

- **Do not** stop eating prior to procedure unless your doctor specifically told you to do so.
- You **do not** need a driver to transport you to or from the procedure unless you will be sedated for the procedure. Most thoracenteses are performed with local numbing medicine, and do not require sedation.
- If you are taking anti-coagulation medication (blood thinners), please let your pulmonary doctor know. You may have to adjust or stop your medication before your procedure (aspirin can be continued, but many other blood thinners will need to be stopped temporarily).
- Please leave jewelry at home.
- Small children will be more comfortable at home.

Medications:

Take all necessary medications with enough water to swallow them.

What will happen the day of the procedure?

- The doctor may use an imaging test to see where and how much fluid is around the lungs. This may be a chest radiograph (x-ray), a chest ultrasound, and/or chest CT scan (Cat-scan).
- Your skin will be cleaned with a disinfectant before the procedure
- The doctor will give you a shot of numbing medication in the skin where the needle or catheter is placed.
- After the fluid is removed, we will place a bandage over the insertion site.

What are the risks?

All medical procedures may have complications. Complications from thoracentesis are rare. We will explain the risks and potential complications of the procedure at the time you sign your consent for the procedure.

What can I expect in recovery?

- After your procedure, you will be taken to the recovery area. One person may join you there, if you wish.
- Your doctor may order a chest x-ray after your procedure.
- When you are ready to go home the nurse will explain your discharge instructions and answer your questions.
- If your doctor requested fluid tests the results usually take 1 or 2 days. Some bacterial or fungal culture tests may take weeks until final results are obtained.

Where should I go for my procedure?

Your procedure will be performed in our University Hospital Medical Procedures Unit (MPU) located at 1500 East Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor Mi 48109. Detailed driving instructions, parking information and maps are available on our website at: <https://uofmhealth.org/patient-visitor-guide/patients>.

Directions: The MPU is located on the second level of University Hospital. The closest parking is in parking garage P2 or the Taubman valet at the main entrance.

- From the main entrance of the Taubman Center, take the elevator to Floor 2.
- When you exit the elevator, enter the Taubman Center, and turn to your right.
- Walk straight ahead to the end of the hallway and turn to your left.
- Go through the double doorway on your right (across from the elevators). This takes you into University Hospital.
- Make an immediate right down the first hallway. There will be a sign for the Medial Procedures Unit. Continue down the hallway, past the chapel and into the MPU.

When should I contact my doctor?

Call us if you have any of the following signs or symptoms:

- Changes or difficulty in your breathing.
- New or worsening pain when taking a deep breath.
- Cough that produces blood.
- Pain, redness, swelling, and/or drainage around the needle insertion site.
- A temperature of 100.4 °F (38 °C) or higher.
- Chills.

What is the number to call?

- During business hours (Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm): Call the Pulmonary Clinic nurse at 888-287-1084.
- After business hours, on weekend or holidays: Call the paging operator at (734) 936-6267 and ask for the Pulmonary doctor on call.

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