

Indwelling Pleural and Peritoneal Catheters

Patient and Caregiver Information

Indwelling Pleural and Peritoneal Catheter

Your doctor has advised you that you need an Indwelling Catheter placed to drain extra fluid from your lung or abdomen. This guide will help communicate what will happen before, during and after your procedure. It was written to inform you about your procedure and answer the most frequently asked questions.

What is an Indwelling Catheter?

An Indwelling Pleural or Peritoneal Catheter is a soft tube or drain that removes fluid from an area of your body. This fluid often causes pain or discomfort. Removing the fluid will reduce the uncomfortable symptoms you are experiencing. The Indwelling Catheter will allow you to remove the fluid at home on a daily or weekly basis according to your doctor's instructions.

Preparation

You will receive a phone call reminding you of your procedure. Please feel free to ask our staff any questions you may have.

- Inform your doctor prior to the procedure if you take medications that thin your blood.
- Follow your pre-procedure instructions regarding stopping any medications.

What do I do before my procedure?

- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your procedure.
- Arrange for a responsible adult to drive you home after the procedure and stay with you for the next 24 hours.

Day of Procedure

What do I do the day of my procedure?

- Report to the hospital 2 hours prior to your scheduled procedure time and check in with our concierge at the first floor check in desk. It is important to arrive on time to avoid having to reschedule.
- Do not apply makeup, lotions, deodorant or hair products on this day.
- Leave valuables and jewelry at home.
- After checking in you will be taken back to a room to get you ready for the procedure.
- A member of our staff will come to your room and move you to the procedure room where your procedure will take place.
- Once the procedure is complete a nurse will oversee your recovery for a few hours after the procedure to ensure you are safe to go home.

During the Procedure

Will I have anesthesia?

During the procedure you will be given medications in your IV that will make you sleepy. Unlike deep anesthesia that you may receive during a surgery, this anesthesia will allow you to sleep lightly, but still be able to respond to commands, such as take a deep breath or open your eyes. The light sleep will make you more comfortable during your procedure.

What are the side effects of anesthesia?

Anesthesia may slow your breathing, so your nurse may need to give you oxygen during the procedure. It may also affect your blood pressure by decreasing it slightly. Your doctor will decide if you need intravenous fluids to get your blood pressure back to normal. Sedation may also cause you to have a headache, feel sleepy, or feel nauseated for several hours after the procedure. You may not remember things that happen during or immediately after the time you were receiving procedural sedation.

After the Procedure

What should I expect after my procedure?

- Once the procedure is complete a nurse will oversee your recovery for a few hours to ensure you are safe to go home.
- You will receive training on how to use the drain at home. An instruction manual will be given to you to take home.
- You should not drive for 24 hours after the procedure.
- It is normal to feel discomfort or see bruising around the incision site for a few days after the procedure.
- It is normal to run a slight fever for 24 hours after the procedure. If you are experiencing a fever of 100.4°F or greater, which lasts for more than 1 day, it may be a sign of infection. Please call your doctor or the nurse.

Will I have pain?

You may have a sore incision site or bruising around the site for a few days after the procedure. This can usually be managed with over the counter pain relievers.

If you experience unusual or severe chest pain or chest tightness following your procedure, please call your doctor or the nurse immediately.

Questions for my doctor