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BILIARY CATHETER CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Tara L. Buck, PA-C

Information:

A biliostomy catheter provides a route of bile drainage for obstructed bile ducts. This provides treatment of jaundice and relief of associated skin itchiness. The catheter is secured to the skin by an adhesive device or sutures to prevent accidental removal of the catheter. A dressing made of gauze is placed over the fixation device and is taped or secured with a thin sheet of adhesive material. The catheter is usually also taped to your skin just outside the dressing. The end of the catheter may be connected to a drainage bag to collect your bile.

Instructions:

- Try to prevent tugging on the catheter.
- If connected to a bag, the bag should be emptied as follows:
 - (1) Turn bag upside down,
 - (2) Remove bottom cap from bag,
 - (3) Pour contents into toilet,
 - (4) Replace cap on bag, and
 - (5) Re-secure bag onto leg with straps.
- Keep dressing as dry as possible. When bathing, do not sit in water deep enough to immerse catheter fixation device/dressing. Showering is permitted if the dressing is kept as dry as possible (you can tape a piece of plastic wrap to cover the dressing). If the dressing becomes wet for any reason, remove it and replace with new piece of gauze and tape, leaving the fixation device alone. (A slightly damp dressing exterior does not require changing.) You may also change the dressing as needed for cleanliness.
- If the fixation device loosens from the skin, dry it and the skin, then tape the device securely to the skin and call Medford Radiology the next business day.
- Keep the skin around the catheter clean. Slight accumulation of secretions around the catheter at the skin entry site is common and not a cause for concern. You may gently cleanse/remove any excess build-up.

Occasionally, a situation will require prompt attention and an emergency room visit may be necessary:

- A catheter which has been pulled out,
- A sudden decrease in volume of bile drainage.
- Worsening jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes) or itching
- Fever over 101°, chills, nausea, vomiting
- New or increasing right upper quadrant pain
- Blood coming out of catheter
- Bile coming out around catheter (mild staining of dressing is normal but saturation of dressing is not)

With these urgent situations, please call Medford Radiology to see what your best course of action is.

For any questions please contact the Medford Radiology office at 541-618-5800

In all emergency situations call 911

If you received Conscious Sedation (IV sedation) and are discharged the same-day:

- You must have someone drive you home when you leave the hospital.
- For 24 hours after your procedure, do not do anything where you need to be mentally alert. This includes making important decisions, operating machinery, signing important papers, etc.
- Eat light for the first 24 hours, and then start eating more as you are able. Drink plenty of fluids.
- If you are taking pain medications:
 - Take as directed
 - Do not drink alcohol while taking narcotic pain medication
 - Do not drive
 - If you are constipated, drink more fluids and eat more fiber. You can also use an over-the-counter stool softener.

An Interventional Radiologist placed your biliary catheter on _____ at _____ hospital. If your catheter requires flushing, medical staff will provide instruction before discharge. A surgeon or gastroenterologist may be involved in the care of this catheter as well.

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In all emergency situations call 911