



PLEURX CATHETER DISCHARGE EDUCATION

Information:

Tunneled pleural and peritoneal catheter insertion is performed as a treatment option for recurrent pleural effusion (pleural fluid in the chest) or ascites (fluid in the abdomen).

What should I expect after the PleurX catheter placement?

- Once the local anesthetic has worn off, the catheter insertion site may become tender and you may need to take pain medicine for a few days.
- It is normal to experience some discomfort or pain when draining the fluid. If pain is severe during drainage, contact your doctor.

Bathing & Wound Care:

You will need to use and care for your PleurX drainage catheter at home. A home care nurse may be arranged to help you manage your catheter at home if needed.

When you leave the hospital, you will be sent home with PleurX drainage kits. You need to drain the fluid from your chest or abdomen:

- Every 24 to 48 hours
- As directed by your doctor _____

- Change your dressing right away if it gets wet. Clean and dry the site then put on a new dressing.
- Do not let the catheter soak under water, such as a bath tub, rivers, lakes, hot tub or swimming pool. These sources of water tend to increase risk of infection.
- Do not use sharp objects like scissors or a razor near your catheter.
- If your catheter is damaged, cut, or broken, do these steps:
 1. Pinch the catheter closed between your fingers.
 2. Slip clamp over the catheter and tighten the clamp. If you do not have a slide clamp, bend the catheter and tape the catheter closed.
 3. Call your doctor right away.

Follow-up visit information:

Call your primary doctor after discharge for a follow-up appointment if you don't already have one. Follow up with Interventional Radiology is not routinely necessary.

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

- You have a temperature of 100.3° F or higher
- The drainage changes color or consistency, cloudy or smells bad
- The amount of fluid draining from your chest changes
- You have pain when you drain the catheter or pain that continues after it's drained
- You have redness, swelling, drainage, or pain where the catheter goes in or in the area of the catheter
- You damage, break, or cut the catheter

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

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, or DRIVING 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.

For any questions please contact Oregon Interventional Radiology clinic at 541-618-5801

In all emergency situations call 911