

Abscess or Fluid Drainage Tube

Discharge Information

ABSCESS OR FLUID DRAINAGE TUBE

An abscess drainage tube is a small tube that is placed into the area of the body where you have a fluid collection. It is placed because the collection of fluid has not cleared on its own.

WHY DO I NEED THE TUBE

- Your doctor has referred you to Interventional Radiology for placement of this tube.
- The tube was placed to drain the fluid to allow your body to heal.
- Your doctor may put you on antibiotics if the fluid is infected.

HOW LONG WILL I HAVE THE TUBE

- The tube will stay in until the collection of fluid is completely drained. That can be from two (2) weeks to several weeks.
- Your referring doctor will arrange follow-up care. Follow up imaging may be required before your tube is removed.

CARE AFTER THE PROCEDURE

- The tube will be attached to a bag outside your body to collect the fluid.
- The tube is sutured in place. Do not let the bag hang or it may pull the tube out.
- Avoid strenuous activity while the tube is in place.
- Do **NOT** take a bath or go swimming while the tube is in place.
- You will have a bandage covering the insertion site of the tube.

Change this bandage as needed

Keep the area clean and dry

You can clean around the tube with antibacterial soap (example, Dial or Safeguard) and water

Apply a clean gauze pad over the tube insertion site and tape securely to your skin

To shower, cover tube and dressing with plastic wrap two (2) days after the tube placement

- The tube(s) may require flushing.
**If this is required, a nurse, prior to discharge, will show you
A prescription for the flush will be given to you**
- If you experience discomfort from the tube, you may take Tylenol or Advil, unless you are restricted from these medications.
- Check with your doctor.

WHEN TO CALL INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

- Inability to flush or the tube stops draining
- If the tube falls out

If you experience any of these problems please call your doctor, or call the Interventional Radiology Department at 503-413-7127 and ask them to page the Interventional Radiologist on-call. The Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital Emergency Room is also available 24 hours a day at 503-413-7260.