

WHAT TO EXPECT

A drainage catheter is a plastic tube inserted through the skin and into an area where fluid has collected. This catheter will be secured to your skin with a special dressing. Fluid will drain from the catheter into a small bag. The catheter is eventually removed when the fluid and infection are gone. You will lie on the examination table either on your back, side, or belly, depending on where the fluid has collected and where the best path to approach it is. The radiologist will use either an Ultrasound machine, CT scanner, or both to take pictures as a guide.

BEFORE THE TEST

- The nurse and radiologist will speak to you before the test and address any questions or concerns that you may have.
- You will need to sign a consent form giving us permission to perform the procedure.
- You will have an intravenous line (IV) inserted.

DURING THE TEST

- Your skin will be cleaned and prepped with a sterile solution.
- The radiologist shall take pictures to plan the procedure using Ultrasound or CT guidance.
- Localized anesthetic (i.e. freezing) will be used on your skin to numb the area where the tube goes in.
- A thin needle will be inserted into your body to use as access to the fluid collection. The radiologist will continue to take pictures to help show where the needle needs to go.
- You may receive pain medication throughout the exam at the discretion of the radiologist.
- Once the collection has been accessed, the site may be stretched (i.e. dilated) to allow space for the drainage catheter to sit.
- The test lasts between 30 minutes to 1 hour.

AFTER THE TEST

- After the procedure, you will go to a recovery area. Sometimes, additional imaging may be done while you are recovering.
- You can go home once the nurse tells you it is safe to leave. You will be discharged with an adult friend or family member that is taking you home.
- You cannot drive or operate machinery for the next 24 hours.
- You should have an adult friend or family member stay with you for 24 hours after your test.
- You must see your referring doctor for the test results.

If you develop unexpected symptoms (including but not limited to: fever, coughing up a lot of blood, severe pain, increased redness or tenderness in the area, bleeding from the site), call your doctor and/or go to the Emergency Department right away.