

Percutaneous drainage of a fluid collection

WHAT IS A PERCUTANEOUS DRAINAGE?

A percutaneous drainage is a minimally invasive treatment of fluid collections, potentially anywhere in the body. These are generally done using ultrasound as a guide.

HOW IS THE DRAINAGE PERFORMED?

An ultrasound scan is done initially to show the radiologist the right place to drain the fluid. A local anaesthetic is then used to numb the skin. After the anaesthetic, a long thin tube is put through the skin into the collection of fluid. Some people feel some discomfort however, this is normally very short-lived, and most find it manageable. Once in place, the tube is taped to the skin, and the fluid drained off. The removal of the fluid itself is painless.

This examination takes approximately 30 - 40 minutes, and you may require aftercare of up to 3 - 4 hours.

BEFORE THE DRAINAGE:

- You will be asked to have a blood test done 3 - 4 days before the drainage.
- You will be asked to have nothing to eat or drink for up to 4 hours before the procedure.
- You will need to contact our nurse if you are on any anticoagulants such as Warfarin, Clexane or Aspirin, or if you are a diabetic.
- On the morning of your procedure, you may take all your other usual medications.
- You will need to bring someone with you who can drive you home after the procedure.
- Please bring any related prior imaging with you.

AFTER THE DRAINAGE:

- It is normal to feel tired after this procedure so it is important to rest for a couple of days afterwards.
- Do not drive or operate heavy machinery for at least a day after the procedure.
- You may eat and drink normally.
- Observe the drainage site for any bleeding or bruising.
- You may take all your usual medications.
- **If you experience any of the following, please contact your GP, local A&E clinic or referring specialist: increasing pain, breathlessness, fainting, racing pulse.**