

When will I get the results?

If we collect samples of the fluid, the results are sent to your doctor's office within 2 weeks. Make an appointment with your doctor to review the results.

Care at home

You might feel dizzy if you change positions too quickly. Move slowly at first. Keep the bandage dry for at least 48 hours after the drain tube is removed. Remove the bandage after 48 hours.

If needed, take plain acetaminophen (Tylenol) for pain.

When to get help

Call your doctor if you have any of the following:

- Fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, and chills
- Pain or any redness at or around the needle site
- Fluid leaks out through the needle site
- Bleeding from the needle site
- Abdominal pain that does not go away

HealthLinkBC

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Call any time you have any questions or concerns. HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours.

Available in 130 languages. For an interpreter, say your language in English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.

Locations

Abbotsford-Regional Hospital Medical Imaging 2 nd Floor, Fraser Wing, 32900 Marshall Road, Abbotsford	604-851-4866
BC Cancer Agency Medical Imaging, 3 rd Floor, 600 West 10 th Ave, Vancouver	604-877-6000
Burnaby Hospital Medical Imaging, 3 rd Floor, 3935 Kincaid St., Burnaby	604-434-4211
Chilliwack General Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor, 45600 Menholm Road, Chilliwack	604-795-4122
Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre Medical Imaging, 2 nd Floor, 9750 140 th Street, Surrey	604-533-3308 ext. 63926
Langley Memorial Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor, 22051 Fraser Highway, Langley	604-533-6405
Lions Gate Hospital Medical Imaging, Lower Level, 231 East 15 th Street, North Vancouver	604-984-5775
Peace Arch Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor, 15521 Russell Ave, White Rock	604-531-5512
Powell River General Hospital Medical Imaging, 5000 Joyce Avenue, Powell River	604-485-3282
Mount Saint Joseph Hospital Medical Imaging, Level 1, 3080 Prince Edward Str., Vancouver	604-877-8323
Richmond Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor, 7000 Westminster Hwy, Richmond	604-278-9711
Ridge Meadows Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor, 11666 Laity Street, Maple Ridge	604-463-1800
Royal Columbian Hospital Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower, 330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster	604-520-4640
Sechelt Hospital Medical Imaging, 5544 Sunshine Coast Hwy, Sechelt	604-885-8608
St. Paul's Hospital Medical Imaging, 2 nd Floor, Providence Building 1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver	604-806-8006
Squamish Hospital Medical Imaging, 38140 Behmer Drive, Squamish	604-892-6025
Surrey Memorial Hospital Medical Imaging, 1 st Floor, Lower Level, 13750 96 th Avenue, Surrey	604-588-3308
UBC Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor, 2211 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver	604-822-7076
Vancouver General Hospital GI/GU Department, Jim Pattison Pavilion Station 5, Ground Floor, 855 West 12 th Avenue, Vancouver	604-875-4111 Ext 68612

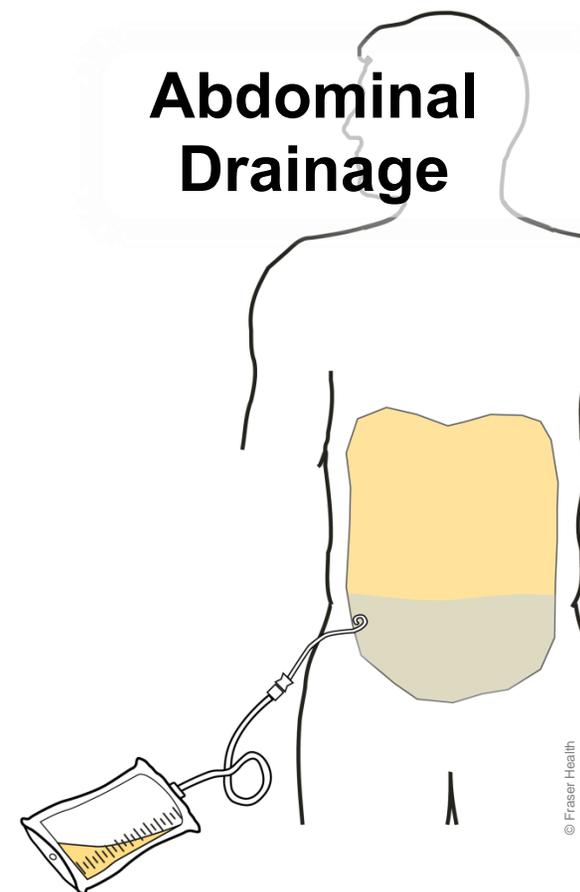
www.fraserhealth.ca – www.vch.ca

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

November 2019 FH Catalogue # 264609
VCH Catalogue # FA.140.A23



Abdominal Drainage



Follow-up Instructions/Appointment:

What is Abdominal Drainage?

Abdominal drainage is the removal of fluid that has collected in the abdomen (called ascites). Abdominal drainage is also done to remove fluid from an abscess in the abdomen.

Why do this procedure?

This procedure helps:

- Relieve discomfort.
- Relieve upward pressure on your diaphragm, making it easier for you to breathe.
- Relieve pressure on your bladder (for some people this makes them urinate more often).

We might also take samples of the fluid to send for testing.

Who does this procedure?

It is done by a radiologist (a doctor who specializes in image guided procedures). Ultrasound, fluoroscopy, or CT scan is used to guide where to collect the fluid.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, they can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for reasons of safety and regulations, they cannot be in the room during the procedure. We will tell you where family members can wait.

What happens before the procedure?

Our Medical Imaging Department contacts you with specific instructions on how to prepare for the procedure.

We recommend you arrange for a 'responsible adult' to take you home after this procedure.

Check with the site where you are scheduled for the abdominal drainage.

Before the procedure, a nurse might review your health history and check your blood pressure and heart rate.

How long will it take?

It takes between 30 minutes to 1 hour to complete the procedure.

What happens during the procedure?

Once lying down, we clean your abdomen with an antiseptic solution.

The radiologist injects numbing medicine to 'freeze' the skin.

Using ultrasound or CT scanning, a needle is inserted into the abdomen and guided to the area.

A small drain tube (called a catheter) is then guided into your abdomen. Once in place, the tube is connected to a drainage bag. Samples of fluid might be taken at this time.

The drain tube is removed once the fluid has drained out. We cover the needle site with a bandage.

Does it hurt?

It might sting or burn as the numbing medicine is injected. You should not feel any pain as the needle and catheter go in.

As the fluid drains out, you should feel more comfortable. Your abdomen will get smaller, sometimes much smaller.

What happens afterwards?

You might need to stay in the hospital for a couple of hours afterwards to make sure you are well enough to leave. Most people go home that same day.

Are there any risks or complications?

Any time the skin is pierced or cut, there is a chance of infection and bleeding.

Other possible complications include:

- a puncture to an abdominal organ
- a drop in your blood pressure

You can ask questions about the risks before you sign the consent form.