

Are there any risks or complications?

Any time the skin is pierced or cut, there is a chance of infection. Other possible complications include:

- bleeding
- infection of the lining of the abdominal wall (called peritonitis)

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

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.

When to get help

Call your doctor if you have any of the following:

- Fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, and chills
- Fluid either starts or continues to leak out through the needle site.
- Abdominal pain that does not go away
- Pain or any redness at or around the needle site

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 Rd, Chilliwack	604-795-4122
Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre Medical Imaging, 2 nd Floor, 9750 140 th Street, Surrey	604-588-3308 Ext 773640
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
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 Behner 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.

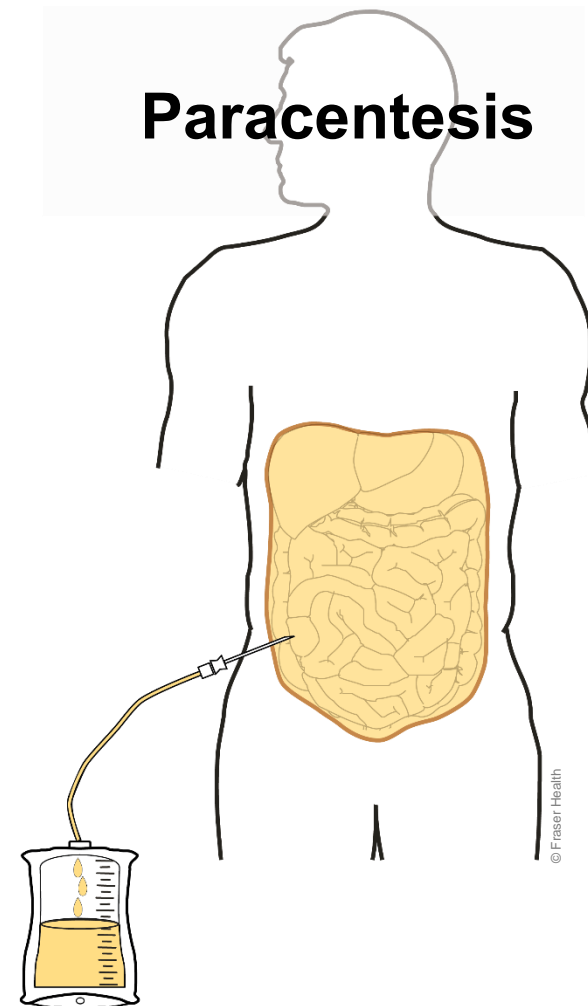
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Paracentesis



Follow-up Instructions/Appointment:

What is a Paracentesis?

Paracentesis is the removal of fluid from around the organs in your abdomen. This area is called the abdominal cavity. A build-up of fluid in the abdominal cavity is called ascites. There are a number of different reasons for this fluid build-up. You might already know why this has happened or this procedure might be done to help find out why.

Why do this procedure?

Depending on how much fluid is in your abdominal cavity, this procedure can:

- Help relieve any discomfort.
- Relieve upward pressure on your diaphragm, making it easier for you to breathe.
- Relieve pressure on your bladder so you don't have to urinate as often.

Sometimes the only reason for doing this procedure is to 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 is used to guide the radiologist to the best place to take a sample of 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.

You might need to arrange for a 'responsible adult' to take you home after this procedure.

Check with the site where you are scheduled for your procedure.

A nurse might review your health history and check your blood pressure and heart rate before the procedure.

How long will it take?

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

What happens during the procedure?

You lie on your back for the procedure.

We clean your abdomen with an antiseptic solution.

The radiologist injects numbing medicine to 'freeze' the skin, then inserts a needle through the skin into the abdominal cavity. Fluid is removed. If needed, samples are sent for testing.

Does it hurt?

It might sting or burn as the numbing medicine is injected. You should not feel any pain as the needle goes in. However, you might feel some pressure and discomfort.

What happens afterwards?

You stay in the hospital until your blood pressure, heart rate, and breathing are normal for you. Most people go home the same day.

Talk to your doctor about when to make an appointment after the procedure.