

How do I take care of myself at home?

Insertion site care

- Remove the bandage on the needle site the day after your procedure.
- You can shower after you take the bandage off.

Activity at home

- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Resume your regular diet.
- Return to your usual activities.
- Resume taking your regular medications (unless your doctor told you something different).
- Contact your specialist's office for an appointment.

When to get help

Contact your doctor or specialist right away if you have any of the following:

- bleeding from the insertion site
- fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, chills
- new or worsening confusion
- extreme sleepiness
- throwing up blood
- blood in bowel movements (poop)
- shortness of breath
- yellow tint to skin (jaundice)
- whites of eyes turn yellow (jaundice)

Go to the nearest Emergency Department if you cannot contact your doctor.

Locations

Royal Columbian Hospital 604-520-4640
Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower
330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster

St. Paul's Hospital 604-806-8006
Medical Imaging, 2nd Floor, Providence Building
1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver

Surrey Memorial Hospital 604-588-3308
Medical Imaging, 1st Floor, Lower Level
13750 96th Avenue, Surrey

Vancouver General Hospital 604-875-4111
Interventional Radiology, Jim Pattison Pavilion Ext 68612
Station 4, Ground Floor, 855 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver

HealthLinkBC

8-1-1

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.

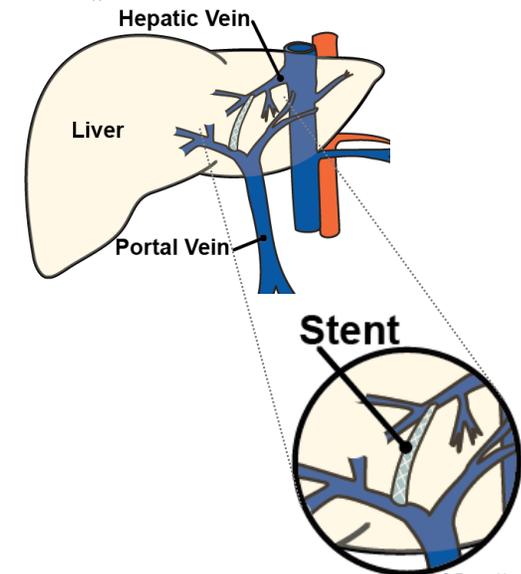
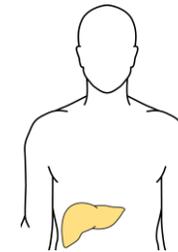
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This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt (T.I.P.S.)



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What is a T.I.P.S. procedure?

- Transjugular means to enter the body by way of the jugular vein.
- Intrahepatic means within the liver.
- Portosystemic means between the main portal vein and the hepatic vein.
- Shunt means creating a new connection for blood flow. A small mesh tube called a stent keeps the shunt open.

We use this procedure to treat increased blood pressure within a group of veins in the abdomen called the portal veins (called portal hypertension). When blood flow into the liver from the portal veins is blocked, pressure builds up into the abdomen. The backup pressure pushes fluid into the abdomen (ascites) and stretches veins to bursting point (esophageal varices).

Who does the procedure?

An interventional radiologist does the procedure (a doctor who specializes in image-guided procedures using x-ray, fluoroscopy, and CT scanning).

If you have questions about the procedure, you can ask the interventional radiologist before your procedure.

Can I bring a relative/friend?

Yes, a relative or friend can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for safety reasons, they cannot be in the room with you during the procedure.

What do I need to do to prepare for this?

Our Medical Imaging Department contacts you with specific instructions about how to prepare for this procedure.

Alert Tell us if you have any allergies or reacted to x-ray dye in the past

You stay overnight after your T.I.P.S. procedure. We might ask you to come in the day before the procedure so we can place a drain in your abdomen to help manage the extra fluid. You might stay in the hospital overnight until your T.I.P.S. procedure.

What happens during the procedure?

We start an intravenous so we can give you medications. For most people, our anesthesiologist is present during the procedure to give you sedation, or in some cases, a general anesthetic (where you sleep through the procedure). You could wake up with more than one intravenous plus a catheter into your bladder.

The radiologist:

- Cleans your neck with antiseptic.
- Injects numbing medicine to freeze the skin on the right side of your neck.
- Makes a tiny cut in the skin over the jugular vein (the insertion site).
- Guides a long, thin, flexible wire through the vein to the liver veins using x-ray dye and x-rays.
- Creates the shunt by connecting the portal vein to the hepatic vein with the stent.

- Removes the guide wire and puts pressure over the insertion site for 5 to 10 minutes.
- Places a bandage or pressure disc over the insertion site.

Will it hurt?

It might sting or burn as the numbing medicine is injected into your skin.

If you are awake through the procedure, you might have some discomfort during the procedure. The anesthesiologist can give medicine to help with this.

How long will it take?

The procedure takes about 2 to 4 hours.

What happens after the procedure?

We move you to a recovery area. You stay here until you are ready to move to a nursing unit to stay overnight.

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 from the cut in the neck
- bleeding within the liver
- allergic reaction to x-ray dye
- continued decrease in liver function
- new or worsening confusion (hepatic encephalopathy)
- damage to nearby organs
- heart failure