

How do I take care of myself?

Activity at home

- Drink plenty of fluids (unless told something different by your doctor).
- Resume your regular diet.
- You will have some pain in the area for 1 to 2 days. Take the pain medicine you usually take for minor aches and pains.
- **Do not** do any strenuous exercise or lifting anything over 4.5kg (10lbs) for 7 days.

When to get help?

Contact your doctor right away if you notice:

- fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, chills
- bleeding from the catheter site that does not stop
- redness or pus from the catheter site
- pain around the catheter
- the fluid changes colour or smells bad

Call your doctor or Home Care nurse as soon as possible if any of the following happens:

- the catheter breaks or pulls out
- the catheter is not draining
- pain when draining the fluid

Troubleshooting when no fluid is draining:

- ✓ Check for kinks in the tubing.
- ✓ Make sure the clamp is open.
- ✓ Check to see if catheter is plugged.
- ✓ If you have a drainage bottle, check to see if there is still a vacuum within the bottle. Replace if needed.

Locations

Abbotsford-Regional Hospital Medical Imaging 2 nd Floor, Fraser Wing 32900 Marshall Road, Abbotsford	604-851-4866
Burnaby Hospital Medical Imaging, 3rd Floor 3935 Kincaid St., Burnaby	604-434-4211
Lions Gate Hospital Medical Imaging, Lower Level, 231 East 15 th Street, North Vancouver	604-984-5775
Royal Columbian Hospital Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower 330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster	604-520-4640
St. Paul's Hospital Medical Imaging, 2 nd Floor, Providence Building 1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver	604-806-8006
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

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.

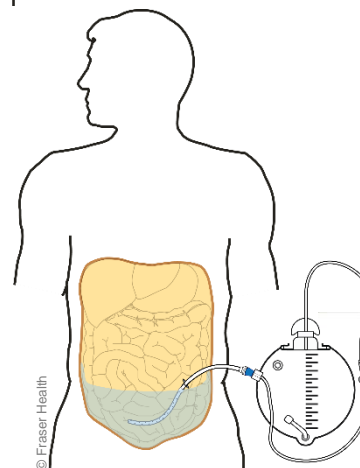
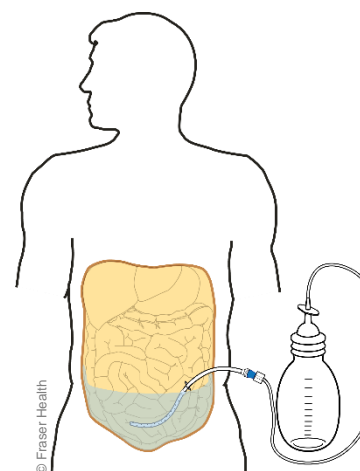
www.fraserhealth.ca – www.vch.ca

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

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Tunnelled Drainage Catheter For Ascites



What is a Tunnelled Drainage Catheter?

This is type of flexible tubing that is used to drain the fluid (ascites) collecting in your belly (abdomen). One end of the catheter stays inside your body and the other end connects to a drainage container (bottle or bag). The bag drains the fluid by gravity. The bottle drains by a vacuum from within the bottle.

This procedure allows the fluid to drain all the time or when needed. When not connected to the drainage container, the catheter is covered with a protective bandage.

Who will be doing the procedure?

A radiologist does the procedure (a doctor who specializes in image guided procedures). The radiologist uses ultrasound and fluoroscopy to do this procedure.

Can I bring a relative/friend?

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

You must arrange for a responsible adult to drive or escort you home.

What do I need to do to prepare for this?

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

If you are already admitted to the hospital, we give these instructions to your nurse.

What happens before the procedure?

An intravenous is started. This allows us to give sedation medications, if needed.

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

What happens during the procedure?

The radiologist:

- Injects numbing medication (similar to dental freezing) into the skin of the abdomen.
- Makes a small cut (incisions) in the skin on your abdomen.
- Guides the catheter under the skin (called tunnelling) and into the abdomen using ultrasound and real-time x-ray (fluoroscopy).
- Places a bandage around the catheter site (where it goes through your skin).

The drainage container might be connected at this time. If you are returning to a hospital bed, it might be connected by your nurse on your return to the nursing floor.

How long does the procedure take?

Every person and situation is different. It usually takes between 45 minutes to 1 hour to do the procedure.

Will it hurt?

The numbing medicine keeps you from feeling pain where the incisions are made. You might feel some pressure while the catheter is being put into your abdomen. We ask you often during the procedure if you are having any pain. If needed, we will give you pain medicine.

What happens after the procedure?

We move you to a recovery area. You stay here for 1 to 2 hours, or you may be transferred back to your inpatient unit.

Are there any risks or complication?

Any time the skin is pierced or cut, there is a risk of infection.

Other possible complications include:

- bleeding at the site
- low blood pressure (hypotension) – usually from draining off too much fluid
Do not drain more than 2000mL at 1 time.
- fluid (ascites) leaking from around where the catheter goes through the skin

Follow-up Instructions

Whether you are remaining in the hospital or going home today, you will be taught how to care for your catheter and drainage container by a nurse in the hospital and/or a Home Care nurse.

While at home, you will be checked regularly by a Home Health nurse.

How do I take care of myself?

Drainage catheter

For 48 hours after the procedure:

- Take sponge baths only.
Do not shower. The area needs time to begin to heal.
- Keep the bandage dry. If it becomes wet, it must be changed.
- Make sure the bandage is changed by a nurse at least 1 time.