



What is Pleurocentesis Drainage?

A Pleurocentesis Drainage is a procedure that is performed to remove/drain fluid or an abscess from the lungs.

What should I expect when I have my drainage?

The risks and possible complications will be discussed with you prior to the procedure and with your acceptance we will proceed.

You will be asked to lie on an examination bed or sit in a chair with the area of clinical concern exposed. The area will be cleaned with a hospital grade antiseptic wash and then scanned using the relevant radiological equipment (ultrasound or CT). By locating this area under ultrasound or CT guidance we can ensure precision in locating the area of clinical interest to be drained.

A local anaesthetic will be administered before the drainage procedure commences. An initial sting or burning sensation may be felt which generally only lasts a few seconds, after which only pressure is felt.

A fine needle is then directed into the area requiring drainage. In some cases the fluid will be sent for Pathological assessment. We will notify you if this is the case, as you will need to follow up the results with your Health Care Professional.

This procedure generally takes about 30 minutes but is dependent on your specific circumstances. In some cases a drainage tube is left in place to continue draining the abscess/fluid. Occasionally the fluid cannot be safely treated by pleurocentesis drainage and may require a more extensive surgical drainage in an operating room. This will be assessed at the time of your booking.

Are there any risks or side effects from this procedure?

As with all medical procedures there are risks. Your doctor has sent you for this test knowing that this procedure is more beneficial than the very low risk associated with it. The risks and possible complications will be discussed with you prior to the procedure.

How do I prepare for my procedure?

When you phone to arrange your appointment one of our friendly staff will advise you of the preparation and requirements for this procedure. We will also need to know if you are currently on blood thinners such as Warfarin or Aspirin.

Blood thinning medications that you are currently taking should be ceased prior to this procedure. This should be discussed with your Health Care Professional prior to making your appointment.

(Aspirin and Warfarin for 5 days, Plavix for 7 days and Iscover for 8 days). If you have had a heart valve replacement, it may be necessary to take antibiotics before the procedure. Please discuss this with your Cardiologist/Cardiac Surgeon and take antibiotics as directed.

Things to bring along to my appointment:

- Previous films for area of clinical interest.
- Medicare or Department of Veteran Affairs card (as we bulk bill all eligible Medicare services).
- Referral (this is a legal requirement).

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