

FLUID COLLECTION DRAIN TUBE CARE

You have had a pocket of fluid in your body that was causing problems (such as an infection). You have had a tube (drain) placed into the fluid collection by a specially trained Interventional Radiologist. In order to ensure that these drains continue to function optimally, certain care is required.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: (Usually obtainable at your local pharmacy or drug store)

- 2" X 2" sterile dressing
- 1" surgical tape
- Sterile 10 cc syringes
- Sterile saline or sterile water
- Drainage bag

Once a day, the dressing will need to be changed and the skin cleaned with mild soap and water. Examine the skin for signs of infection i.e. redness more than ½ inch from the tube or stitches, drainage around the tube or increasing local pain. Grasp the tube firmly (so as not to dislodge it) while changing the dressings. After three days, it is permissible to shower without the dressing over the drain. However, after showering or moving about, protect the drain so it will not become dislodged.

To prevent blockage in the drain tube, the tube will need to be flushed with 10cc of sterile water or saline twice daily. To optimize drainage, the collection bag should be significantly lower than the fluid collection. Record the drain output daily (after subtracting the volume of saline flush). The bag and connecting tubes may be cleaned with tap water then air dried when soiled.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

- Skin infection: redness, drainage, local pain
- Deep infection: fever, sweats, chills, deep pain
- Blocked tube: difficulty with flushing, leakage around the tube, fever, deep pain
- Dislodged tube: contact your physician within 6-8 hours
- Cracked tube or connections
- Dislodged sutures or other methods of fixation

Should any of the above occur or any questions arise, please contact your referring physician's office. After regular office hours, call the Virginia Mason Medical Center Main Line (206-223-6600) and ask for the Radiology Resident on call.