

Diagnostic and Therapeutic Pleural Aspiration Aftercare Advice - Information for patients

What happens after the pleural aspiration?

After the procedure, a small dressing will be placed over the puncture wound site. This can be removed after 24 hours.

- Following your diagnostic aspiration (sample of fluid) you will be able to go home immediately after the procedure.
- If you have had a therapeutic aspiration (removal of a larger volume of fluid) general observations will be performed, i.e. blood pressure check and oxygen levels. You will also have a chest x-ray before being allowed to go home.

Sample results usually take 7-10 days to be processed by the Laboratory and you will be seen in clinic or contacted by telephone with the results. If you have been referred to the respiratory team by another consultant then the results might go directly to the referring consultant.

After care advice

This is a very safe procedure with few risks and it is rare to encounter problems afterwards.

If you experience any of the following:

- Pain that is worsening and not controlled by simple pain killers and/or symptoms of severe shortness of breath, sharp chest pain or coughing up blood (haemoptysis) **you should attend your local A&E Department.**

If you have any questions about your future hospital care, please contact your hospital consultant or the lung nursing team on 0151 430 1367/2326 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm).