

Do I have to stay in hospital overnight?

Most patients come to the hospital in the morning of the procedure and go home at the end of the day. The fluid will be drained gradually, so you should expect to be in hospital for at least 6-8 hours. If you become unwell during the procedure, an overnight stay will be arranged.

Post procedure

- You may be asked to attend for post procedure bloods.
- Advice on restarting your medications will be given by the liver nurses.

What are the risks?

- Common and rare risks will be discussed with you before the procedure and a consent form will be completed, but these can be discussed further before hand also.
- Mild abdominal pain is common in post drain patients
- Site leakage.

There may be students and observers present during your consultation as part of their ongoing training. Please let the staff know if you do not wish any students to be present during your attendance.

Please ask a member of staff if you would like a chaperone present during your procedure.

Whiston Hospital
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Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR
Telephone: 0151 426 1600

St Helens Hospital
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Abdominal drain procedure

(Large Volume Paracentesis-LVP) (Paracentesis)

If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید، لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formie, proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil, vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتيسيق يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

The aim of this leaflet is to provide information to patients who require an abdominal drain (large volume paracentesis), to relieve symptoms of the build up of fluid in the abdomen.

What is ascites?

Ascites is a medical term used to describe the build-up of fluid within the abdomen. Certain illnesses may cause an imbalance in fluid production and re-absorption and may cause the fluid to build up within the abdominal cavity. It occurs commonly in chronic liver disease also known as cirrhosis.

What are the symptoms of ascites?

- Swollen abdomen
- Abdominal pain
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea and vomiting
- Other symptoms that you may experience include indigestion, poor appetite, reduced mobility and tiredness.

What can be done about it?

The quickest way to remove the fluid is to drain it, using a plastic drainage tube inserted into the abdomen. This procedure is called a Large Volume Paracentesis (LVP). This is usually done as a day case procedure.

Another way to remove the fluid, is by taking drugs called diuretics (most commonly spironolactone or frusemide). However, this is not always possible because the diuretics may take too long to start working and some patients cannot tolerate them, due to kidney function.

What should I do when I think I need fluid draining from my abdomen?

Please call the liver helpline on 0151 430 1981. Leave your name, hospital number/DOB and a contact number and the liver nurses will return your call as soon as possible. This call may not be actioned on the same day, therefore please contact to discuss symptoms as soon as they arise. Ideally please have your up to date weight to hand.

The liver nurse will call you back to discuss the next steps and if needed, a date will be given to attend for the procedure. You will also have to go for blood tests in the week prior to the procedure. If you take any diuretics (water tablets), you will be asked to stop these the day before the test. If you take blood thinning tablets (apixiban/edoxaban etc) you may be asked to stop taking these up to 1-5 days before the procedure. Please inform the liver team if you are prescribed these.

What will happen on the day of the procedure?

- The procedure will be carried out on ward 3D, treatment unit. On the day of your procedure please arrive on the ward between 8.30-9am.
- You will be asked to lie on a bed and an intravenous drip will be inserted, to give you a protein called albumin while the fluid is draining.
- A local anaesthetic will be given before the drain is inserted and the drain will be left in place for up to 6-8 hours.
- When the drain is removed a dressing will be applied to the area and should be left in place for up to 48 hours.