

ABCESS DRAIN EDUCATION

Information:

An abscess drain was placed to get the infection out of your body via draining it into a bag or suction bulb. If you have a drainage bag, you may need to empty it when it is full or uncomfortable to carry with fluid in it. If your drain is hooked to a suction bulb, you can empty it by removing plug from bulb. To gain suction on the bulb after drainage, make sure to pinch bulb then replace plug in order to get full suction effect and to continue to drain fluid. REMEMBER TO RECORD THE AMOUNT OF DRAINAGE AND THE COLOR AND TEXTURE OF FLUID THAT IS DRAINING. 7-10 days post abscess drain placement, a sinogram/fistulogram needs to be performed to evaluate if there is abnormal communication from the abscess to the bowel or other structures within the body. If output of drain is less than 10 mL over a 48-hour period, the drain can be removed by a PA or Physician.

What should I expect after the abscess drain placement?

- The area around the drain may be tender following insertion.
- You may have some mild pain or muscle soreness. This is normal. You can take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) (not to exceed 3,000 mg/day) or other non-aspirin pain medicine to alleviate discomfort.
- Dressing over the abscess drain should remain over the drain and be changed if saturated (wet) or if the dressing is not covering the site that the drain was put into.

Bathing & Wound Care:

- You may shower after the abscess drain has been placed. However, keep the sterile dressing clean and dry post placement, this may include applying saran wrap with duct tape to keep a clean and dry access site while showering. If the dressing gets damp it will need to be changed immediately.
- No baths, hot tubs, rivers or lakes submersions of the access site to decrease the risk of infection.
- Protect the skin over your drain. If the drain is dislodged or pulled back call MRG (541-618-5800) right away.

Follow-up visit information:

Follow up with surgeon if you are post-surgery. Follow up with Interventional Radiology for drain check in 7-10 days post placement of drain.

Occasionally, a situation will require prompt attention and an emergency room visit is necessary:

- Chest pain
- Pain, swelling, redness or drainage of pus around the drain site
- Shortness of breath or dizziness

With these urgent situations, please call Medford Radiology to see what your best course of action is

If you received Conscious Sedation (IV sedation) and are discharged the same-day:

- You must have someone drive you home when you leave the hospital.
- For 24 hours after your procedure, do not do anything where you need to be mentally alert. This includes making important decisions, operating machinery, signing important papers, or DRIVE etc.
- Eat light for the first 24 hours, and then start eating more as you are able. Drink plenty of fluids.
- If you are taking pain medications:
 - Take as directed
 - Do not drink alcohol while taking narcotic pain medication

- Do not drive
- If you are constipated, drink more fluids and eat more fiber. You can also use an over-the-counter stool softener.

For any questions please contact Oregon Interventional Radiology Clinic at 541-618-5801

In all emergency situations call 911