



INFERIOR VENA CAVA (IVC) FILTER REMOVAL

Information:

Inferior vena cava filter removal is a procedure to remove a filter which was placed at a previous time. An IVC filter is a specially shaped mesh made of very thin wires that acts like a strainer for your blood. An IVC filter is usually needed if you have blood clots, a pulmonary embolism, or deep venous thrombosis.

An IVC filter is usually removed when your health condition improves. It may be removed when you are no longer at risk of having blood clots. It may also be removed when your bleeding stops or when you are allowed to take blood-thinners. Your caregiver will tell you when the IVC filter may be removed. He will remove it using a special catheter with a small hook on its tip to catch the filter. The catheter is pulled out together with the IVC filter.

Instructions:

- Take all medicines as directed.
- Keep the area where the catheter was removed clean and dry. Make sure you follow all instructions about taking care of the area.
- Check for increased redness, pain, swelling, or drainage at the catheter insertion site.
- Walk at least a few times a day. Increase your speed and distance as you feel able. This helps improve blood flow and reduce the risk of blood clots.
- Avoid lifting and other activities as directed.

Follow-up visit information:

Call your healthcare provider if you have any questions or concerns. And, make sure you keep all follow-up appointments with the healthcare provider.

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

- A fever, chills, a cough, or feel weak and achy.
- The skin is itchy, swollen, or has a rash.
- Chest pain or trouble breathing that is getting worse over time.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you experience any of these symptoms:

- Fever of 100.3°F or higher, or as directed by your healthcare provider.
- Increased redness, swelling, pain, or drainage where the catheter was inserted. These symptoms may mean you have an infection.
- Increased bleeding where the catheter was inserted.
- Pain, swelling, or redness in either leg. These symptoms may mean you have a blood clot.
- Other changes in the area where the catheter was inserted. For example, numbness or trouble moving your leg if the catheter was inserted into your upper leg area.

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, 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