

Radiology department

Pleural drainage

Introduction

This leaflet tells you about the procedure known as pleural drainage. It explains what is involved and what the benefits and risks are. It may help you think of things you would like to discuss further with your doctor.

What is pleural drainage?

This leaflet tells you about the procedure known as pleural drainage where you may need to have fluid drained from the 'pleural space' surrounding your lung. It explains what is involved.

What is the drain for?

Your doctors think that there may be fluid in the pleural space around your lung and have asked us to take some fluid off, or place a tube into the fluid to drain it off on the ward.

What to tell the doctor

- If you have any allergies.
- If you have had a previous reaction to intravenous contrast medium (the dye used for some x-rays and CT scanning).
- It is important to tell the doctor or the radiology department before attending for admission
- If you are taking medication to prevent blood clots. Below is a list of some of the medications which are used to thin the blood and help to prevent blood clots.

If you are currently taking any of these medications, please contact your referring doctor or the Radiology department on 0161 446 3325 as soon as possible, as these may need to be stopped prior to your procedure. Failure to do so may result in your procedure being postponed.

Apixaban	Dalteparin
Aspirin	Enoxaparin
Clexane	Fragmin
Clopidogrel	Rivaroxaban
Dabigatran	Warfarin



Agreeing to treatment

We will ask you to sign a consent form agreeing to accept the treatment that you are being offered. The basis of the agreement is that you have had The Christie's written description of the proposed treatment and that you have been given an opportunity to discuss any concerns. You are entitled to request a second opinion from another doctor who specialises in treating this cancer. You can ask your own consultant or your GP to refer you. Your consent may be withdrawn at any time before or during this treatment. Should you decide to withdraw your consent then a member of your treating team will discuss the possible consequences with you.

How is the drainage done?

It is performed in the radiology department. The radiologist (specialist doctor) normally uses ultrasound scanning to help find the best place for the drain. We put local anaesthetic into the skin first and then put the needle or small drainage tube into the chest.

What happens after the drainage?

If you have a tube in, the fluid will drain into a bottle and you will be cared for on the ward. The nurse will monitor your blood pressure and pulse for a few hours after the procedure.

How long will I need to stay in hospital?

This depends on how much fluid your doctor wants to drain. It is likely that you will need to stay in hospital for a few days while the fluid drains.

Are there any risks or complications?

The commonest problems are bleeding, infection and collapse of the lung. However, complications do not usually occur and we will explain these to you in greater detail before the procedure. Serious complications are unusual.

If you have any problems or worries, please contact:

From 9am to 5pm: Radiology department on **0161 918 2346**

Out of hours and weekends (for emergencies): Ring the Christie on **0161 446 3000** and ask for the on-call radiologist.

Christie Hotline: **0161 446 3658** (24 hours)

Notes:

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week