

Integrated Procedure Unit (IPU)

Ascitic drainage

What is your drain for?

Your doctor thinks that there is excess fluid or 'ascites' in your abdomen (tummy) which needs draining. Either a specialist nurse from the procedure team or a radiologist will carry out this procedure on the integrated procedure unit (IPU).

How is the drainage done?

You will have an ultrasound scan to help identify if there is sufficient fluid to be drained. If there is sufficient fluid, the nurse or doctor will assess the most suitable position for the drain to be inserted. The specialist nurse or doctor will numb the skin and tissues using a small local anaesthetic injection. The nurse or doctor will then insert a small drainage tube to drain the fluid from the abdomen.

What to tell the nurse/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 918 2346 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
Aspirin
Clexane
Clopidogrel
Dabigatran
Dalteparin
Enoxaparain
Fragmin
Rivaroxaban
Warfarin

How do I prepare for the drainage?

You may eat and drink before the procedure. We advise you to have a light breakfast only.



How long will I need to stay in hospital?

This depends on how much fluid needs to be drained. Most people can go home on the same day. However, if you have a larger amount of fluid, you may have to stay in hospital overnight to allow the fluid to drain. So please come prepared to stay in hospital overnight.

Are there any risks to the procedure?

As with most procedures there is a small risk of complications.

- **Infection** - around where the drain enters the skin or inside your abdomen. If there was sign of infection, the drain would be removed and antibiotics may be required. (Risk of infection 0.58 to 0.63%).
- **Damage to an organ** - inside your abdomen, such as the liver or bowel. This is rare, but if it did happen you might need surgery.
- **Bleeding** - a transfusion of blood or blood products may be needed if significant bleeding occurs. (Risk of severe haemorrhage 0 to 0.97%).
- **Nodules** - or bumps can sometimes form around the site where the drain has been inserted.
- **Not draining** - if the drain doesn't work properly a new drain may be inserted.
- **Leak of fluid** (Risk of leak of fluid 5%)
- **Problems arising from paracentesis** (Risk of perforation rate from paracentesis 0.4%; risk of death from paracentesis 0 to 0.39%).

An ultrasound scan is used to minimise the risk of complications. You may feel a little tired for a day or two following the procedure. We advise you to have someone with you when you go home. Driving is not advised after this procedure.

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 the 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.

If you have any problems or questions, please contact one of the procedure nurse specialists or your medical team.

Ascitic drain aftercare:

As with any medical procedure drainage of ascites carries a risk of complications but these are rare.

Potential complications to look out for:

• Fluid Leak

Sometimes following draining, fluid can leak from the drainage site and you may be discharged with a collection bag until this subsides. You will be provided with spare dressings to place over the site when the drainage bag is removed.

• Low blood pressure

Sometimes removal of a large volume of fluid can result in you developing low blood pressure. If you become dizzy after discharge or notice your urinary output has dropped over a 24 hour period contact the Christie Hotline.

- **Infection**

If you develop a temperature higher than 37.5°C or notice any redness, swelling or pain around the drain site contact the Christie Hotline.

- **Organ perforation**

This is extremely rare but if you develop severe abdominal pain, bloating, if you develop a temperature higher than 37.5°C, nausea vomiting or shortness of breath after discharge contact The Christie Hotline.

If you have any signs of the above - please contact The Christie Hotline on 0161 446 3658 (24 hours)

If you need to book another ascetic drain procedure, please contact:

The Procedure team on the IPU on 0161 446 3916

Monday to Friday between 8:00am and 4:00pm

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, Salford or Macclesfield. 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