

Image guided paracentesis

What is it?

A paracentesis is a procedure in which ascites (fluid in the abdomen) is drained by a catheter through a small puncture in your skin. Fluid may accumulate in the abdomen due to liver dysfunction, cancer, or other pathologic processes. The procedure will be performed by a doctor (radiologist) using CT or ultrasound guidance.

Before the procedure

Your doctor will explain the procedure to you and answer any questions that you may have about the procedure. Risks include, but are not limited to, the following: bleeding, infection, pain, bruising at the procedure site, and puncture/damage to adjacent tissues and organs. Most complications require only additional observation, although administration of fluids, medications or blood products may be needed. Rarely, surgery could be needed if a life-threatening complication is encountered.

Paracentesis may be more dangerous in patients with bleeding disorders or active infections.

You will be asked to sign a consent giving permission to undergo the procedure. Notify the doctor if you have any drug allergies.

Inform the doctor if you have a bleeding disorder or if you take an anticoagulant (blood thinner), aspirin, ibuprofen, or any other medication that may affect blood clotting. Additional lab work may be required in order to verify your blood is not too thin.

Please make sure someone is available to drive you home.

During the procedure

We will attempt to make you as comfortable as possible prior to beginning the procedure. You will be lying down and be asked to roll up onto your side. You may be asked to follow specific breathing instructions during the procedure.

Your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution then draped to create a sterile field. Local anesthetic (e.g. lidocaine) will be used to numb the skin and soft tissue. This may cause a brief stinging sensation.

A needle will be inserted through the numbed area and into the fluid in the abdomen. When appropriate position is confirmed, a small catheter on the needle is advanced into the fluid so that it will drain correctly. It is normal to feel some pressure as the catheter is advanced into your abdomen.

The catheter is usually attached to a bag or small vacuum bottle to collect the fluid as it drains from your body. Your doctor may request that the radiologist send some fluid samples for additional testing to determine what is causing the fluid to accumulate in your abdomen.

After the procedure

You will be monitored closely for a few minutes prior to being considered for discharge (if this is done as an outpatient). Please report any shortness of breath, chest pain, or other symptoms you feel may be related to today's procedure to your nurse.

The site of the paracentesis may be sore for several days after the procedure. Take a pain reliever for the soreness as recommended by your regular doctor; acetaminophen (Tylenol) is a good over the counter option. Aspirin and certain other pain relievers could increase the risk of bleeding. Be sure to only take medications approved by your doctor.

Avoid strenuous activity and heavy lifting for 3 days following the procedure.

If you discontinued a blood thinner prior to undergoing this procedure, please contact the doctor who sent you for this study to determine when you can safely resume taking this specific medication.

Notify your doctor or report to the ER if you experience and of the following:

- ❖ Fever and/or chills
- ❖ Redness, swelling, draining, or bleeding at the procedure site
- ❖ Worsening pain at the procedure site or elsewhere
- ❖ Chest pain, shortness of breath and/or difficulty breathing

If you have any questions before and following your procedure call the Radiology nurse at 662-293-1404

Date: _____

(Patient Signature)

(Witness)