

MCRG Interventional Radiology Patient Discharge Education Paracentesis

About Your Procedure

A Paracentesis is a procedure to remove fluid from your abdomen. This fluid may be removed to decrease abdominal pressure or to examine the fluid in the laboratory. Fluid buildup in your abdomen can sometimes cause problems with your bowels and breathing if it is not removed.

Your abdomen was cleansed with a cleaning solution and a numbing medicine was injected into the area. Ultrasound or CT scan was used to help the doctor guide the needle. The doctor put a needle with a plastic catheter (tube) into your abdomen. Once the doctor got some fluid, the needle was removed and the catheter stayed in place. The catheter was then connected to a tubing that drains the fluid into a bottle or bottles if necessary. The catheter was removed when all the fluid is drained. A dressing or bandage was placed over the catheter exit site on your abdomen.

After You Leave:

What should I expect after the Paracentesis?

- You may notice there is less tightness around your abdomen and it will feel less full. You may be able to breathe better which should help you feel more comfortable.
- Limit your activity for the rest of the day. Avoid lifting or pushing 10 pounds or more for 1 to 2 days after this procedure.
- You may return to work after 24 hours, unless your primary doctor or we instruct you otherwise.
- You do not have any diet restrictions because of this procedure, but should continue any that were given to you by any other doctors.
- Please follow up with any doctors that were previously treating you.
- Continue all previously prescribed medications.

Bathing & Wound Care:

- If there is residual fluid in the abdomen after the procedure, you may experience some drainage from the site which may require another paracentesis.
- You may shower after 24 hours; do not tub bath or submerge in water for 3 days.
- Apply a warm compress to affected area for comfort as needed.
- If the drainage site(s) become red, tender, swollen, or start to drain, contact us.

Follow-up visit information: Call your liver doctor or primary care doctor after discharge for a follow-up appointment if you don't already have one. Follow up with Interventional Radiology is not routinely necessary.

When to Get Medical and Emergency Help:

Call our non-emergent line at (407) 649-6823:

Temperature greater than 101°F.

Increasing redness, swelling or drainage from the abdominal access site.

Increasing or new abdominal pain.

Go to your nearest Emergency Department:

Bleeding or drainage from the needle site that is saturating the Band-Aid.
You have shaking chills or a temperature over 101°F.

Interventional Radiology Contact Information

Office Hours 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Non-emergent questions:

Phone: (407) 649-6823 Fax: (407) 246-0374

Email: IRSupport@MCRG.com – *non urgent concerns only*

IR Clinic Scheduling:

Phone: (321) 841-8104 Fax: (407) 649-7873

Email: IRSupport@MCRG.com – *non urgent appointment requests only*

For all Urgent issues:

On nights and weekends for immediate concerns you may

Page the Interventional Radiologist at:

(321) 841-8122

Or call your Doctor.