

Discharge Instructions – Tunneled Pleural Catheter

What To Expect

After the procedure, you may have:

- pain under your dressing (bandage)
- cough
- some pain inside your chest (this should go away in 1-2 hours)

Wound Care

- You can shower. If the gauze underneath your clear dressing gets wet then the next time you shower, wrap plastic kitchen wrap around your chest before you shower.
- Visiting nurses have either contacted you already or will do so very soon. They will change your dressing if it gets wet and when a drainage is done.

Restrictions

- Do not put the catheter under water. This means no bathing, swimming, hot tubs, etc.
- Leave your dressing intact unless it gets soaked saturated or your catheter is being drained.
- Lifting and exercise are OK.

Pain Control

- Your anesthetic (numbing medication) may wear off and you may have pain. If you are not already taking pain medication, your doctor may send a prescription to your pharmacy.
- You can take nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) if you are not taking any blood thinning (anticoagulant) medicines and you have not had any bad reactions to these drugs in the past. Ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®) and naproxen (Aleve®) are common NSAIDs that do not require a prescription. If you prefer, you can try acetaminophen (Tylenol®) first.

Call Us If...

- you have drainage or bleeding around the catheter site
- your gauze dressing is soaking wet
- you have swelling on the side of your chest, neck, or trunk
- you have chest pain or shortness of breath that is getting worse

Follow Up Care

- You will have visiting nurses see you and drain the catheter or teach your family how to drain and dress the catheter.
- Your catheter will be drained 1 to 7 times a week, depending on what your doctor recommends. (In some cases, daily drainage might allow the catheter to be removed sooner.) Over several weeks or months, your catheter will be drained less often.

You can call thoracic clinic at **716-845-3167** and pick the “speak with a nurse” option if you or the visiting nurses have questions regarding the catheter.

Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Thoracic Center at **716-845-3167** between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm on weekdays. Your call will be answered by our Call Center staff when the center is closed.

You can also reach us 24/7 by calling the main Roswell number: **716-845-2300**.