

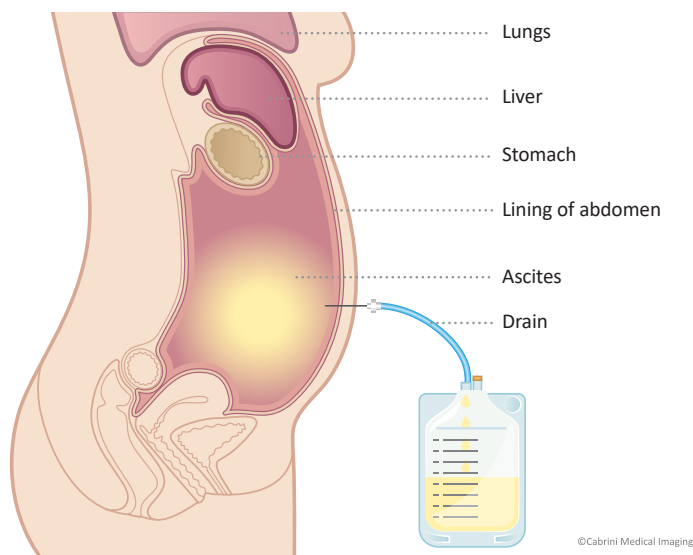
Drainage of ascites

What is drainage of ascites?

Your doctor has requested that we perform drainage of the ascitic fluid (ascites) which has collected in your abdominal cavity. This procedure is done for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes, and is usually performed using ultrasound guidance.

Overall, this is a safe procedure and is relatively pain free.

It is important you read the following information so that you will be able to consent to this procedure. If you have any further questions you will be given an opportunity to ask nursing or medical staff on the day.



Before you come in for the procedure

You will be contacted by Cabrini Medical Imaging with a date and time for your procedure. Once you have been registered at the office of the medical imaging department, you will be prepared for your procedure and taken to the appropriate room. If you have been asked to go to the admissions department, please arrive one hour prior to your appointment time, as you will be admitted to the hospital as a 'day case'. This does not mean you will be in the hospital for the whole day.

You will be given instructions by Cabrini Medical Imaging. Please take note of the following and contact the department on the number below if you have any concerns.

Cabrini Medical Imaging
183 Wattleree Road, Malvern VIC 3144
03 9508 7467 | e: xrayct@cabrini.com.au

Cabrini Medical Imaging
243 New Street, Brighton VIC 3186
03 9508 5660 | e: brixrayfd@cabrini.com.au

- If you are on any blood thinning medication, please make sure you let staff know as soon as possible, as this could affect the ability to do your procedure. Please check with your GP if unsure of your medication.
- On the day of your procedure please bring a list of your current medications (this includes over-the-counter medications, and herbal remedies)
- It is preferable that you have someone to drive you home after your procedure
- Please let staff know if you are currently receiving chemotherapy

How your ascites drainage will proceed

From the admissions department, you will be brought to the medical imaging department, where you will be prepared for your procedure, and taken to the appropriate room.

At this point you have an opportunity to ask one of the nursing staff further questions or to speak to the doctor performing the drainage. You will be positioned on the table where the procedure is to take place.

An ultrasound will be performed by the doctor to determine the safest and best site for drain access.

After washing your skin with antiseptic, a small amount of local anaesthetic will be injected into the skin, which may sting for a moment. A small tube or cannula will then be inserted into your abdomen, through which the ascitic fluid will drain, before being collected and measured in a drainage bag. The procedure is finished when the fluid stops draining or the specific amount requested to drain is reached. A waterproof dressing will then be applied (which can be removed two days post procedure).

As with all medical procedures there are associated risks and complications with having this procedure done, they can be broken down into common, rare and very rare.

Common risks and complications

- Discomfort to the area, following the injection. This may be due to the tissues being aggravated by the procedure.
- Bleeding or bruising to the localised area

Rare risks and complications

- Infection, which could require additional treatment, possibly antibiotics

MEDICAL IMAGING PATIENT INFORMATION

- Feeling of malaise/lethargy post procedure
- The procedure may have to be abandoned due to technical or medical reasons
- Allergy to medications used during this procedure

Very rare risks and complications

- Perforation of bowel

How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **If a priority report is requested it will be issued within two hours and faxed or emailed to your doctor, however this can sometimes take up to 24 hours.**

If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available for you to take to your doctor.

Important

It is important to let us know when you make your booking if you are or think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

It is important to bring with you your referral, previous x-rays and any other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or I-MED).

Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the relevant number below.