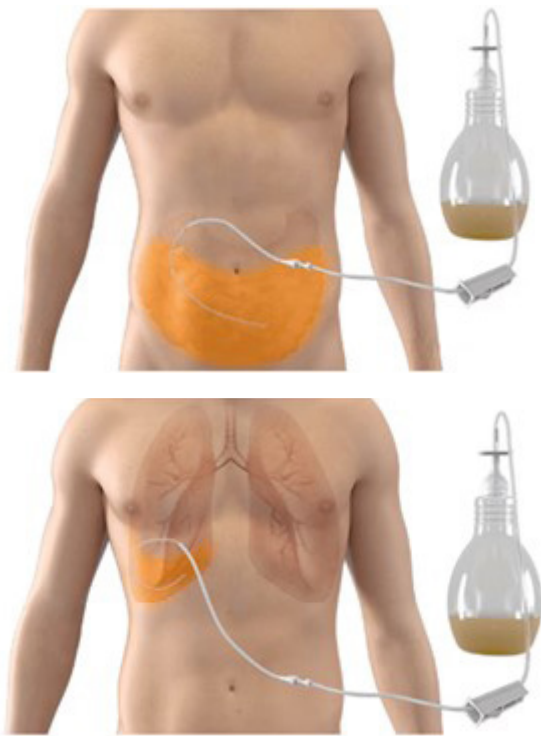


Pleural and abdominal PleurX

What is a PleurX?

A PleurX is a semipermanent thin, flexible catheter that can be placed in your chest or abdomen to drain away recurrent fluid. This allows the palliative care nurses to drain the fluid off at home, whenever you need.



Before you come in for the procedure

You will be contacted by the Cabrini Medical Imaging with a date and time for your procedure and you will be asked to go to the admissions department 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.

- Please tell the staff if you are or think you may be pregnant
- 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)
- On the day of your procedure it is important that you bring any relevant x-rays
- Please make sure you have someone to drive you home, as you are not permitted to drive until the following day

How your PleurX drainage will proceed

From the admissions department, you will be taken 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.

The PleurX catheter will then be inserted into your abdomen or chest, through which the fluid will drain. The catheter is then sutured in place. A waterproof dressing will then be applied.

Ongoing care of the PleurX

Cabrini palliative care nurses will take over management of your drainages, and the catheter. Although the dressing is waterproof we advise no swimming and baths to avoid infection. The palliative care nurses will change the dressing weekly.

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.
- Numbness or loss of sensation through the affected area, due to the long acting anaesthetic injected during procedure. This wears off after a few hours, but be aware this can increase your risk of an accident if you are not careful.
- Bleeding or bruising to the localised area
- Pleural PleurX – coughing

Rare risks and complications

- Infection, which could require additional treatment, possibly antibiotics
- 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
- You may not get any relief from this procedure, requiring further treatment
- Pleural PleurX – Small pneumothorax/collapsed lung, requiring no further treatment

Very rare risks and complications

- Damage to the spinal cord requiring surgery and other treatment
- Permanent nerve damage, leading to paralysis
- Abdominal PleurX – Perforation of the bowel
- Pleural PleurX – Bleeding into the pleural space, large pneumothorax, which may require overnight admission and a chest tube to be inserted to reinflate your lung

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.