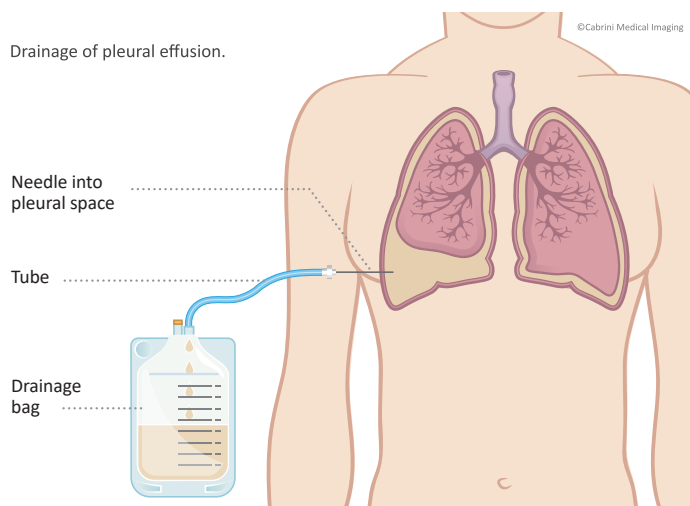


Pleural drainage

What is pleural drainage?

Your doctor has requested that we perform a drainage of pleural fluid, which has collected in the area between your lungs and ribs. This fluid can cause discomfort and make it difficult for you to breathe. This procedure is done for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.

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 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.

- 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)

- Please make sure you have someone to drive you home (you are not permitted to drive until the following day)
- Please let staff know if you are currently receiving chemotherapy

How your pleural 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 then be positioned on the trolley where the procedure is to take place.

Once in position (sitting upright) it is very important that you remain still for the rest of the procedure and follow any breathing instructions you are given.

After washing your skin with antiseptic, a small amount of local anaesthetic will be injected into the skin. This may sting for a moment. A small tube or cannula will be inserted, through which the pleural fluid will drain before being collected and measured in a drainage bag. The procedure finishes when the fluid stops draining or a 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
- 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

- Small pneumothorax/collapsed lung, requiring no further treatment

Very rare risks and complications

- 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.