

Aspiration or Drainage

What is a Aspiration or Drainage?

A fluid aspiration or drainage is a procedure in which a needle is passed through the skin into a fluid collection. The purpose of this procedure is to remove a collection of fluid and/or send a sample to the lab for testing. An aspiration or drainage may be completed with the use of ultrasound or CT. Samples of fluid collection may or may not be sent to lab for testing.

To Prepare

- If you are taking blood thinners, you will be informed on whether you need to hold them call 419-563-9342 if you have any questions. Please take any other medications as scheduled, unless you have been informed otherwise by your doctor.

What to Expect

- Once you have registered, you will be directed to the radiology department.
- You may be asked to change into a hospital gown for the procedure.
- The radiologist will talk to you before the procedure and answer any questions you may have.
- A scan will be done to look at the affected area.
- The skin will be cleaned with a cleaning solution and covered with a sterile drape.
- The radiologist will inject the site with numbing medicine, this may cause a temporary stinging sensation.
- Once the site is numb, the doctor will insert a needle or drain into the affected area.
- If a drain is placed, it will be secured in place and removed at a later time. The radiologist may stitch the drainage catheter in place at the area it exits your body.
- If no drain is placed, a band-aid will be placed over the needle site.
- The fluid will be sent to the lab to be examined, if indicated.

After the Procedure

- You may take Acetaminophen (Tylenol) as directed by your physician.
- An ice pack over the area may help decrease pain and swelling.
- If testing is performed, results will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share these results with you.
- You will receive more detailed post care instructions at the time of discharge.

If you have any questions or concerns, please ask the radiology department staff or contact your doctor.

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Galion Hospital

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Ontario Hospital

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