

Paracentesis

What is a Paracentesis?

A paracentesis is a procedure where fluid in the abdomen (ascites) is drained through a catheter.

To Prepare

- Please take your regular 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.
- An ultrasound will be used on the abdomen to determine the best site for the catheter.
- Your skin will be marked, as a guide, by the radiologist.
- The radiologist will talk to you before the procedure and answer any questions you may have.
- 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 radiologist will insert a catheter into the abdomen and remove fluid. The amount of fluid removed is dependent upon the indications for the procedure.
- When enough fluid is collected, the catheter will be removed and a bandage will be applied.
- Occasionally, the nurse will apply a skin adhesive to prevent leaking of fluid from the site.

After the Procedure

- You will receive basic wound care instructions after the procedure. There is no special care needed.
- If labs were ordered, results will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share these results with you.

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

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