

# Thoracentesis

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## What is a Thoracentesis?

A thoracentesis is a procedure where fluid around the lung is drained through a catheter inserted into your back.

## 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 will 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.
- An ultrasound will be used to locate the fluid collection. Once located, a mark will be placed on your skin.
- 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 catheter to remove the 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 band-aid will be placed.
- A chest x-ray will be completed after the procedure.

## 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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