



KPMC - OAKLAND
DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY
Interventional Radiology

DRAINAGE TUBE CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Information: An abscess drainage catheter allows drainage of infected fluid (pus) without the need for surgery. The catheter is secured to the skin by an adhesive device to prevent accidental removal of the catheter. This device is often either a circular disk with a central hole and a plastic clamp (called a Hollister DTAD) or a small rectangular device made of soft plastic with a groove for the catheter (called A Percufix). A dressing made of 4" x 4" gauze is placed over the fixation device and is taped or secured with a thin sheet of adhesive material called Cover-Roll Stretch. The catheter is usually also taped to your skin just outside the dressing. The end of the catheter is connected to a drainage bag or suction bulb to collect the infected fluid.

Instructions:

1. Try to prevent tugging on the catheter.
2. When full, the bag (or bulb) should be emptied as follows: 1) turn bag upside down, 2) remove bottom cap from bag, 3) pour contents into toilet, 4) replace cap on bag, and 5) re-secure bag onto leg with straps.
3. Keep dressing as dry as possible. When bathing, do not sit in water deep enough to immerse catheter fixation device/dressing. Showering is permitted if the dressing is kept as dry as possible (you can tape a piece of plastic wrap to cover the dressing). If the dressing becomes wet for any reason, remove it and replace with new 4" x 4" gauze and tape, leaving the fixation device alone. (A slightly damp dressing exterior does not require changing.) You may also change the dressing as needed for cleanliness.
4. If the fixation device loosens from the skin, dry it and the skin and then tape the device to the skin. Call the department (510-752-7573) during the next regular working day.
5. Do not flush catheter, unless instructed to do so by the doctor.
6. Keep the skin around the catheter clean. Slight accumulation of secretions around the catheter at the skin entry site are common and are not cause for concern. You may gently cleanse/remove any excess build-up (Q-tips or gauze and hydrogen peroxide works well).

DRAINAGE TUBE CARE INSTRUCTIONS (cont.)

7. Occasionally, a situation will require attention by the interventional radiologist: (1) a catheter which has been pulled out, (2) leakage of fluid or other material around catheter.

If either occurs:

During regular working hours (M-F, 8-5): Call the Interventional Radiology Section at (510) 752-7573.

During weekends or holidays: Call the hospital operator (510) 752-1000 and ask for the interventional radiologist on call.

At night: Call first thing the next morning as above.

If leakage around the catheter or other less urgent situations occur, call the IR Section the morning of the next regular working day.

8. If you have any questions or concerns relating to your catheter call:

INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY
KAISER OAKLAND
(510) 752-7573