



KPMC - OAKLAND
DEPARTMENT OF INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

NEPHROSTOMY TUBE CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Information: A nephrostomy catheter provides a route of urine drainage for an obstructed kidney, allowing the kidney to continue functioning (removing waste products from the blood). The catheter is secured to the skin by sutures or a plastic adhesive device to prevent accidental removal. A sterile dressing covers the tube near its insertion into the skin. The catheter is usually also taped to your skin just outside the dressing. The end of the catheter is connected to a drainage bag to collect the urine.

Instructions:

1. Try to prevent tugging on the catheter.
2. When full, the bag 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.
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 work well).

NEPHROSTOMY INSTRUCTIONS (cont.)

You should seek medical advice regarding your nephrostomy catheter if:

- 1) Your catheter gets pulled out
- 2) Urine stops draining from the tube
- 3) Urine is leaking around the tube
- 4) The tube or connectors break
- 5) You develop fever and/or flank pain on the side of your tube
- 6) Bright red blood starts to drain through or around the tube

If any of these occur you may call our office at (510) 752-7573 during regular business hours (8AM – 5PM). At other times, you may leave a non-urgent message at this same number. If you need urgent attention or advice, you may call your local advice nurse or emergency room. For life-threatening emergencies, call 911.

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