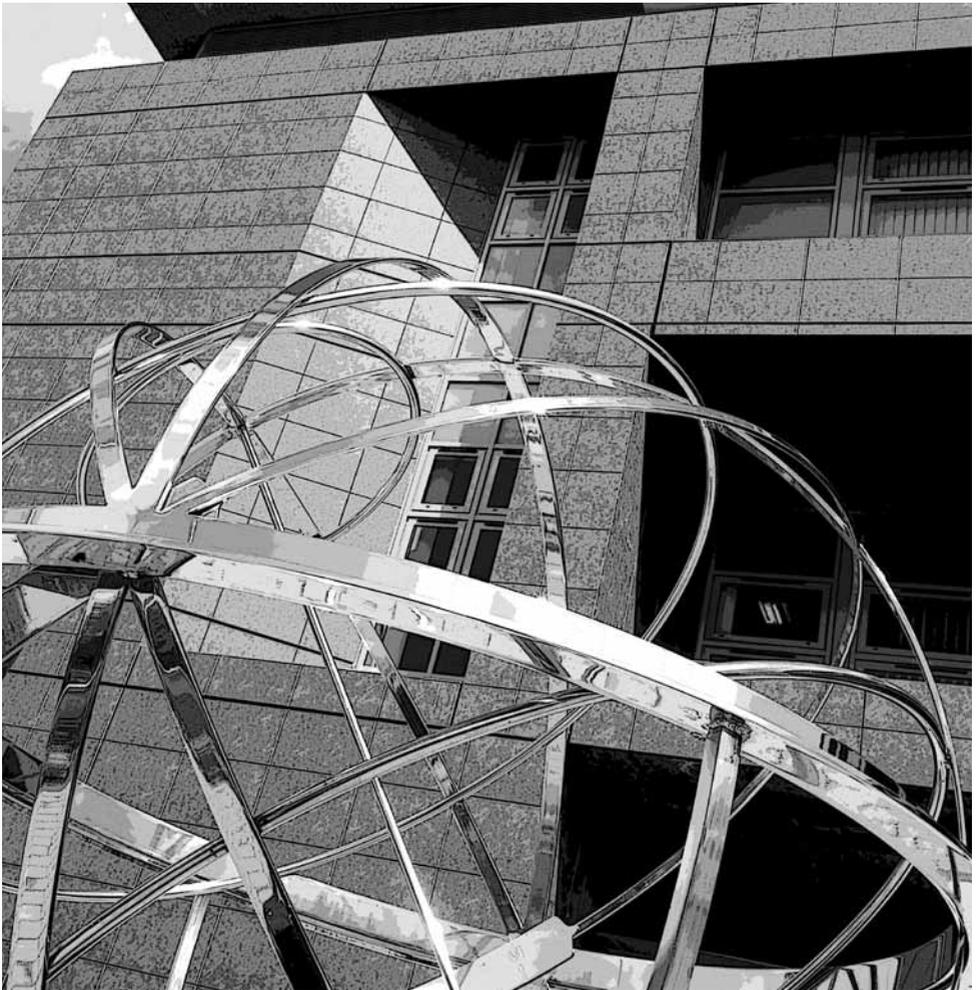


Image-guided abdominal drain insertion

Information for patients



What is an image-guided abdominal drain insertion?

A drain is a thin plastic tube which is inserted into an abnormal collection of fluid to help remove it from the body.

The drain is inserted either using ultrasound (high frequency sound waves) or a CT scanner. These machines take images of your abdomen and will show up the abnormal area. Your doctor will then be able to see the best place to insert the drain.

A CT scan (Computed Tomography scan) uses x rays to create many images in "slice sections" of your body.

The CT scanner looks like a large open white ring, rather than the tunnel that everybody expects!

What are the benefits?

Other tests that you may have had, such as a previous CT scan, have shown that there is an abnormal amount of fluid inside your abdomen. The doctors looking after you have decided that you should have a drain inserted into your abdomen in order to help them to diagnose the cause of the fluid collection and also to help make you feel better.

What are the risks?

Drain insertion is considered a safe procedure.

- There is a small risk of bleeding or bruising.
- There is also a small risk of infection. This risk can be reduced by careful cleaning of your skin and using sterile equipment.
- There is a small risk of damaging normal organs which are close to the fluid collection.
- You may also feel some discomfort in the area where the drain has been inserted once the local anaesthetic wears off; this can be controlled with painkillers if required.

Sometimes the drain may not remove all of the fluid; the doctors looking after you will know if this is likely and may arrange further tests to check if this has happened. The doctor performing the abdominal drain insertion will discuss all the risks with you before asking your permission (consent) for the procedure to go ahead.

What should I do to prepare for the procedure?

Please do not eat for 6 hours before your procedure. You may drink water up to 2 hours before your appointment. Unless we have told you otherwise, continue to take your regular medication as usual, with a small amount of water.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, but for reasons of safety they will not be able to go with you into the CT scan room except in very special circumstances.

If you are having a drain insertion using ultrasound, they can normally go with you into the room.

What does an abdominal drain insertion involve?

When the procedure is due to start, a member of staff will ask you to change into a hospital gown. You will then be shown into the scan room where you will meet the doctor.

The doctor will explain the procedure, how it will be performed and the risks involved. The doctor will then ask you to sign the consent form to give your permission for the drain insertion to go ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask the doctor.

If the doctor is using ultrasound, you will be asked to lie on the bed. The doctor will spread some gel on your skin and use the ultrasound probe to find the abnormal collection of fluid.

If the doctor is using the CT scanner, you will be asked to lie on the scanner couch. It is important to make sure you are as comfortable as possible as you will need to stay in this position for around 30 minutes. You will be asked to lie very still while we do an initial CT scan to find the fluid collection.

When the safest site to insert the drain has been found, the doctor will mark your skin with a pen. The doctor will then clean your skin to make it sterile (the same as is done in operations).

They will then use a small needle to inject local anaesthetic around the area where they will put the drain. This will make the area go numb. A slightly larger needle will then be inserted

through your skin into the fluid or air. A soft wire will be passed through this needle and a drainage tube will then be placed over the wire and guided into the right position. The ultrasound machine or CT scanner will be used several times during the procedure to make sure the drain is put in the correct place.

Once the drain is in position, a small amount of the fluid may be collected to send to the laboratory for analysis. The drain will be fixed to your skin using a special dressing and will be connected to a drainage bag when you get to the ward or observation area.

The whole procedure normally takes 20-30 minutes.

Does it hurt?

You will only feel a minor scratch or discomfort during the drain insertion. Some people feel a scratch and stinging sensation when the local anaesthetic is injected, but the skin should then become numb. Please tell the scanning staff if you are in discomfort.

What happens after the procedure?

After the drain is inserted, you will be taken to the ward or observation area to have the drain connected to a drainage bag. Normally you will have to stay in hospital overnight, until all the fluid has drained.

The doctors looking after you will then remove the drain and decide when you can be discharged (sent home). Removing the drain should not be painful. It is a simple procedure which can be performed at your bedside simply by gently pulling on the drain.

What happens when I go home?

You will be given an information sheet to take home with you. This explains what to do and who to contact if you have any problems after the procedure.

How to contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Radiology Department using the number on your appointment letter.

Further information

More patient information is available on the following websites:

www.impactscan.org/patientguide.htm

www.ouh.nhs.uk

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

www.goingfora.com

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**

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