



Procedure Information Sheet

Introduction

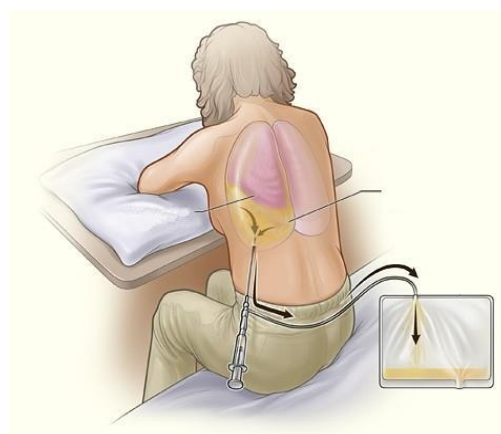
A small amount of fluid, called pleural fluid, normally exists in the pleural space. The fluid helps to lubricate the area. However, some conditions can cause an increased amount of pleural fluid to collect, called a pleural effusion. When too much fluid accumulates in the space, it can make you difficult to breathe. Pleural tapping or drainage is a procedure to remove fluid and get tissue sample from this area for diagnostic and therapeutic purpose.

Indication

- Diagnostic tapping: to obtain fluid accumulated in your affected pleural cavity for examination in order to find out the cause of the effusion. If necessary, pleural tissue will be obtained by biopsies in order to confirm the diagnosis and for treatment guiding.
- Therapeutic tapping or drainage: To relieve respiratory distress due to accumulation of large amount of fluid in pleural cavity.

The Operation / Procedure

1. The procedure is usually carried out in a sitting or lateral position. It is important to avoid coughing or any body movement during the procedure.
2. The site for pleural tapping or drainage is selected and cleansed with an antiseptic solution. Local anaesthetic will be injected into the site to minimize discomfort during the procedure.
3. A needle is introduced through the chest wall into the pleural cavity in order to obtain pleural fluid for pathological investigations.
4. If pleural biopsy needs to be performed, a biopsy needle will be introduced through chest wall into the pleural cavity. Parietal pleural tissue is obtained by the apparatus and removed. This procedure may be required to repeat a few times to obtain adequate pleural tissue for examination.
5. If continuous drainage is needed, a small incision is made in the chest wall. A sterile tube is introduced through chest wall into the pleural cavity and the other end of the tube is then connected to the drainage bag, box, or bottle.
6. Patient has to relax and remain still ensuring smooth completion of the procedure.
7. Doctor will aspirate the appropriate amount of pleural fluid for the diagnostic or therapeutic purpose.
8. Firm dressing will be applied to the tapping or drainage site afterwards.



Before the Operation / Procedure

A written consent is required. Chest x-ray will be taken prior the procedure to ascertain the site of tapping or drainage.

Patient's Label

Patient Name: _____

Hospital No: _____

Episode No: _____



After the Operation / Procedure

- The wound will be covered by sterile dressing that will be removed in few days. The patient should try to keep it clean and dry.
- Chest x-ray will be taken after the procedure.
- Nurse will observe the insertion site for signs of bleeding, haematoma, swelling or seepage of fluid from the wound.
- The patient needs to have bed rest for a few hours. Blood pressure, respiratory rate and other vital signs will be monitored. In the case of respiratory distress or chest pain, the patient should inform a nurse as soon as possible.
- Patient's mobility will be restricted when the chest drain is in place.

Risk and Complication

Pleural Tapping / Biopsy:

- Pain, feeling faint
- Bleeding, infection, pneumothorax, pulmonary edema

Pleural drainage (Chest drain insertion)

- Pain, infection
- Subcutaneous emphysema (air may leak around the wound into area under skin, leading to swelling due to air collection)
- Malposition, kinking, blockage or dislodgement of the tube
- Bleeding, rarely massive bleeding requiring surgical intervention and can be life-threatening
- Rarely injury to adjacent organs which can be life-threatening and require surgical intervention
- Death

Disclaimer

This leaflet only provides general information pertaining to this operation / procedure. While common risks and complications are described, the list is not exhaustive, and the degree of risk could also vary between patients. Please contact your doctor for detailed information and specific enquiry.

Reference

1. Heffer, JE. (2019). Patient education: Thoracentesis (Beyond the Basics). *UpToDate*. Retrieved on 24 June 2020 from: https://www.uptodate.com/contents/thoracentesis-beyond-the-basics?search=pleurocentesis&topicRef=6686&source=see_link
2. Hospital Authority. Coordinating Committee in Intensive care. (2020). Chest Drain Insertion (胸腔引流術). Retrieved from https://www.ekg.org.hk/pilic/public/icu_PILIC/ICU_ChestDrainInsertion_0244_eng.pdf
3. Hospital Authority. Coordinating Committee in Paediatrics. (2018). Pleural Tapping and Biopsy. Retrieved from https://www.ekg.org.hk/public/pdfReader.jsp?http://www.ekg.org.hk/pilic/public/Paed_PILIC/Paed_PleuralTappingandBiopsy_0269_eng.pdf

Patient's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Patient's Label	
Patient Name:	_____
Hospital No:	_____
Episode No:	_____