



Procedure Information Sheet

Introduction

Abdominal Paracentesis / abdominal tapping is a simple procedure used to drain fluid from the abdominal cavity. Usually, there is very little fluid in the abdominal cavity. When there is accumulation of fluid inside the abdomen, that is ascites, an abdominal paracentesis could be done to drain fluid out.

Indication

- Diagnostic tapping: To determine the cause of ascites.
- Therapeutic tapping: To relieve abdominal distension, bloating, abdominal pain, or shortness of breath secondary to ascites.

The Operation / Procedure

1. You will be instructed to lie on your back or other specific position which facilitate the drainage or aspiration.
2. The site for abdominal paracentesis will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution.
3. An injection of a local anesthetic will be given to numb the area.
4. The doctor will carefully insert the needle into the abdomen after local anesthetic. The fluid will be removed using a syringe.
5. The amount of fluid removed depends on the procedure purpose: diagnostic or therapeutic aim.

Before the Operation / Procedure

1. A written consent is required.
2. Empty bladder before procedure.

After the Operation / Procedure

1. Bed rest according to doctor's order.
2. Blood pressure and other vital signs will be monitored.



Risk and Complication

In general, paracentesis is a relatively safe procedure. There are rare but serious complication such as leak of ascitic fluid (5%), severe bleeding (0 to 0.97%), infection due to paracentesis (0.58 to 0.63%) and death associated with paracentesis (0 to 0.39%).

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

Runyon, B. A., Chopra, S. & Robson, K. M. (2021). Diagnostic and therapeutic abdominal paracentesis. *UpToDate*. Retrieved from https://www.uptodate.com/contents/diagnostic-and-therapeutic-abdominal-paracentesis?source=history_widget#H337673812

Patient's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Patient's Label

Patient Name: _____

Hospital No: _____

Episode No: _____