

Biliary Drainage Catheter Change

Patient Information Sheet

All biliary drainage catheters eventually become clogged and need to be changed. A biliary drainage catheter is a small, flexible rubber tube that has been inserted into the common bile duct/liver to drain bile from the liver.

We are sensitive to your needs and concerns and want to let you know your safety and well-being are our primary concern. This information will help you understand your recovery.

Instructions after Biliary Drainage Catheter Change

- Rest for the remainder of the day following your procedure.
- Have a responsible adult spend the night with you the night of your procedure.
- Do not drive for the 24 hours following your procedure.
- Do not lift anything weighing over 5 kilograms (10 pounds) for 48 hours following your procedure.
- Keep the bag lower than the insertion site to help with drainage.
- Watch for kinks in the tubing as this can stop the flow of bile.
- Empty the drainage bag from the spout at the bottom. Do not disconnect the bag as this opens the system and can lead to infection.

Diet

- You can eat what you normally eat.

Medications

- If needed for pain or discomfort, take Tylenol (acetaminophen) for the 48 hours following your procedure. Follow the directions on the label.
- **Do not** use Aspirin or ibuprofen products, such as Advil or Motrin, as it may increase the chance of bleeding.

Dressing Care/Sutures

- Flush the catheter daily with 10mL of saline. Push saline towards the liver (not the drainage bag).
- Change the dressing around the tube at least once per week or if it becomes soiled or wet.
- The drainage bag should be changed every seven (7) days.



Bathing

- You may shower or sponge bath, but keep the dressing dry.
- **Do not** bathe or swim (especially in lakes) while the tube is in place; submersing the catheter increases the chances of developing an infection.

What to watch for

- Fever more than 100°F (38°C) or chills
- Unusual tenderness or upper abdomen pain
- Redness, swelling, foul odor, pus or leakage from the site
- If you have stitches that become loose or break
- If there is little to no drainage
- If the catheter becomes dislodged or pulled out, do not attempt to reinsert the tube yourself. Contact your doctor; we are most successful at replacing tubes shortly after they have fallen out.

If you experience any of the above changes call your doctor, Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000), or go to your closest Emergency Department. Take this sheet with you.

