

# Inferior Vena Cava (IVC) Filter

## Patient Information Sheet

An inferior vena cava (IVC) filter provides a mechanical barrier to prevent blood clots from reaching your heart and lungs. Using ultrasound and x-ray guidance, a thin flexible catheter was inserted into one of your veins and advanced to the Inferior Vena Cava, the large vein that takes blood back to the heart. Once the position has been verified the filter will be placed and the placement catheter removed.

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

### Instructions after IVC Filter Insertion via Jugular Vein

- Rest for the remainder of the day following your procedure.
- Have a responsible adult spend the night with you following your procedure.
- Do not drive for 24 hours following your procedure.
- Do not lift anything weighing over 5 kilograms (10 pounds) for the 48 hours following your procedure.
- Do not participate in sports or strenuous activity for 48 hours following your procedure.

### Diet

- You can eat what you normally eat.
- Drink plenty of fluids for the next two (2) days to cleanse your body of the contrast dye.

### Medications

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

### Dressing Care/Sutures

- Remove the gauze dressing (Band-Aid) 24 hours after your procedure.

## Bathing

- You may bathe the day following your procedure, but keep the bandage dry or change if it gets wet.
- **Do not** swim (especially in lakes) for one week, as this may lead to an infection at the puncture site.

## What to watch for

- Difficulty breathing
- Chest pain
- Feeling unusually faint or light-headed
- Increasing redness or soreness at the puncture site
- Fever more than 100°F (38°C)
- Redness, excessive swelling, or discharge from the site
- Excessive bleeding and or a bloody dressing

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.

Your tube will require routine changes; discuss this with your referring doctor. Your doctor will be required to complete and send an Interventional Radiology Special Procedures requisition referral to Diagnostic Imaging to set up scheduled changes every 4-6 months.

If you have an *optionally retrievable IVC filter*, you should have a follow up appointment in six to eight (6-8) weeks in Interventional Radiology to have it removed. If you are not sure, ask your referring doctor.

Please call as soon as possible for a follow up appointment with your referring doctor,

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ to discuss the results of this procedure.

