

Radiology department

Abscess drainage

Introduction

This leaflet tells you about the procedure known as abscess drainage and explains what is involved and what the benefits and risks are. It may help you to think of things you would like to discuss with your doctor.

What is the drain for?

Your doctor think that you have an abscess (infected fluid). They have asked us to put a tube into the abscess and drain the fluid off.

What to tell the doctor

- if you have any allergies
- if you have had a previous reaction to intravenous contrast medium (the dye used for some X-rays and CT scanning)
- it is important to tell the doctor or the radiology department before attending for admission if you are taking medication to prevent blood clots. Below is a list of some of the medications which are used to thin the blood and help to prevent blood clots.

If you are currently taking any of these medications, please contact your referring doctor or the radiology department on 0161 918 2346 as soon as possible, as these may need to be stopped prior to your procedure. Failure to do so may result in your procedure being postponed.

Apixaban	Dabigatran	Rivaroxaban
Aspirin	Dalteparin	Warfarin
Clexane	Enoxaparin	
Clopidogrel	Fragmin	

Is there any preparation for my drain?

- You need to have your blood tested either a few days before, or on the day of the drainage. This is just to check that it is safe for us to go ahead.
- You may have to starve before your procedure, you will be advised if this is necessary. You may be given a special drink called Gastrografin which helps to define the bowel if the drainage is taking place in the CT scan room.
- The radiologist will explain the procedure and any possible risks to you and ask you to sign a consent form.

Agreeing to treatment

We will ask you to sign a consent form agreeing to accept the treatment that you are being offered. The basis of the agreement is that you have had The Christie's written description of the proposed treatment and that you have been given an opportunity to discuss any concerns. You are entitled to request a



second opinion from another doctor who specialises in treating this cancer. You can ask your own consultant or your GP to refer you. Your consent may be withdrawn at any time before or during this treatment. Should you decide to withdraw your consent then a member of your treating team will discuss the possible consequences with you.

How is the drainage carried out?

It is performed in the radiology department. The radiologist (specialist doctor) normally uses ultrasound scanning or computed tomography (CT scanning) to help find the best place for the drain. We put local anaesthetic into the skin first and then put the small drainage tube into the abscess.

What happens after the drainage?

If we need to leave the tube in, the fluid will drain into a bag and you will be cared for on the ward.

How long will I need to stay in hospital?

Most people have to stay in hospital for a few days?

Are there any risks of complications?

We will explain these to you in greater detail before the procedure. The complications depend on where the abscess is in your body. The commonest problems are bleeding and infection in the bloodstream. This may cause shivers soon after the insertion of the drain, but you will sometimes be given antibiotics to try and prevent this. It is possible to misplace the tube into other organs or the bowel, but using image guidance (ultrasound or CT) helps to minimise this. Serious complications are unusual.

If you have any problems or worries, please contact:

From 9:00am to 5:00pm:

Radiology nurse on **0161 918 2346** or radiology department on **0161 446 3322**

Out of hours and weekends (for emergencies):

Ring The Christie on **0161 446 3000** and ask for the on-call radiologist

The Christie Hotline **0161 446 3658** (24 hours)

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week