



Radiology Associates of Venice & Englewood

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ABSCESS OR FLUID DRAINAGE TUBE

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An abscess drainage tube is a small tube that is placed into the area of the body where you have a fluid collection. It is placed because the collection of fluid has not cleared on its own.

WHY DO I NEED THE TUBE

- Your doctor has referred you to the Interventional Radiology for placement of this tube.
- The tube was placed to drain the fluid to allow your body to heal.
- Your doctor may put you on antibiotics if the fluid is infected.

HOW LONG WILL I HAVE THE TUBE

- The tube will stay in until the collection of fluid is completely drained. That can be from two (2) weeks to several weeks.
- Your referring doctor will arrange follow-up care. Follow up imaging may be required before your tube is removed.

CARE AFTER THE PROCEDURE

- The tube will be attached to a bag outside your body to collect the fluid.
- The tube may be sutured in place. Do not let the bag hang or it may pull the tube out.
- Avoid strenuous activity while the tube is in place.

Change this bandage as needed. Keep the area clean and dry.

You can clean around the tube with antibacterial soap (example, Dial or Safeguard) and water.

Apply a clean gauze pad over the tube insertion and tape securely to our skin.

To shower, cover tube and dressing with plastic wrap two (2) days after the tube placement.

- The tube(s) may require flushing.

If this is required, a nurse, prior to discharge, will show you.

A prescription for the flush will be given to you.

- **If you experience discomfort from the tube, you may take Tylenol or Advil, unless you are restricted from these medications.**
- **Check with your doctor.**

WHEN TO CALL INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

- **Inability to flush , the tube stops draining, or fluid drains around the tube.**
- **If the tube falls out.**

If you experience any of these problems call your doctor, or call Radiology Associates of Venice at 941-488-7781 and ask them to page the Interventional Radiology Department. The Venice Regional Medical Center Emergency Room is also available 24 hours a day at 941-483-7000.