



Radiology Associates of Venice & Englewood

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(941)488-7781 Fax (941)486-0349

BILIARY TUBE

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 help drain bile from your liver.

HOW LONG WILL I HAVE THE TUBE?

- The tube will stay in until the obstruction 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.

SEDATION

The sedation you received during your procedure is still in your system. Therefore, we would like you to take it easy the rest of the day and evening. Do not drive and avoid drinking alcohol.

CARE AFTER THE PROCEDURE

- The tube will be attached to a bag outside your body to collect the fluid or may be capped.
- 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.
- Do NOT take a bath or go swimming while the tube is in place.
- You will have a bandage covering the insertion site of the tube. Change this bandage as needed to keep the area clean and dry. You can also clean around the tube with antibacterial soap (example, Dial or Safeguard) and water. Apply a clean gauze pad over the tube insertion site and tape securely. 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.

- 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 YOUR DOCTOR

- Inability to flush the tube, the bile leaks around the tube, or if the tube falls out.

If you experience any of these problems, please call your Surgeon or GI 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.