Aftercare instructions for a drainage tube

You have a catheter, i.e. a drain (for instance into your gallbladder, bile duct, renal pelvis, cavities filled with pus or fluid, abdominal cavity, pleura), inserted using fluoroscopy or ultrasound, computed tomography or magnetic guidance.

Post-operation procedures

Catheter, i.e. the drain, end is twisted into a pigtail with the aid of a string, button or pin. The locking string is twisted around the drain tube and sealed with medical adhesive tape to prevent unlocking by accident. If the tape comes off, replace with a new one. The locking string must not be cut nor the tap in the end of the drain or the intermediate tube removed. Furthermore, ensure that the collection bag attached to the drain is not caught or entangled. All of this is important for the drain to stay in place for the intended period.

Wound pads are used to protect the drain site (i.e. the point where the catheter penetrates your skin). The length of drainage tube above the incision is wrapped into a pigtail and secured by fixation fabric (e.g. Mefix). In spite of the locking string, the drainage tube will be taped onto your skin so that an accidental snag will not remove it.

Do not twist or sharply bend the drain or it may be blocked. Neither should it be cut as then the locking strings will come loose, the drain pigtail open and the drain fall off.

You can have a shower two days after the drain was inserted. Remove dressings before you have a shower and dry the drain site carefully afterwards. Place fresh dressings around the drain and then cover the drain site.

Sauna is not recommended during long-term drainage treatment, but if you wish to have a sauna bath, you can do so at the earliest two weeks from the drain placement. If you do, it is vitally important to carefully shower the drain site clean.

The attending unit will give you more detailed instructions on the care of your drainage tube.

Contact the closest health facility (for instance your health care centre) if you later experience any procedure-related problems including bleeding in the incision site, or infection (pain, reddening, swelling or discharge). If excretion from the drain stops, the drain may be clogged. A clogged drain can often be unclogged at a health facility by flushing it with saline.

Contact details

If you wish to have further information on the examination, please call us during working days between 13.00 and 15.00:

**G-kuvantaminen** +358 8 315 3971

**F-kuvantaminen**  +358 8 315 3277 or +358 8 315 3290

**B-kuvantaminen**  +358 8 315 2122

**Oulaskankaan röntgen (Oulainen)** +358 8 429 7626