

Biliary Drainage Tube

After Visit Summary

This is general information. Please see your After Visit Summary for how to take care of yourself after surgery.

Your health care team will work with you to understand any challenges you have after your hospital stay. This will help your team work toward a plan to make sure you have the right care and support to help manage your health after you leave the hospital.

Your Surgery

The doctor made an incision into your abdomen. The biliary tube empties bile from your bile duct or from your gallbladder.

The tube may be connected to a drainage bag or it may just have a cap on it.

What to Expect After Surgery

It is normal to have a little soreness or tenderness at the insertion site.

Before the Surgery

- Tell your health care provider if you:
 - are pregnant
 - have a latex allergy
 - have diabetes
 - take a blood-thinner medicine.
- Remove any jewelry or piercings.
- Arrange to have someone drive you home. You will not be able to drive after the surgery.

Pain Relief

- Take any prescription or over-the-counter medicine as directed.

Activity

- Avoid tub baths, hot tubs and swimming pools.
- You may take a shower. For 2 weeks after surgery, cover your drain with plastic wrap when you shower. Remove the wrap after you are dry.
- Your health care provider will tell you when it's OK for you to drive, return to work, exercise and have sex.
- Slowly return to your regular level of activity.
- Follow your health care provider's directions for how much you can safely lift.
- Rest as needed.
- Avoid tobacco and secondhand smoke. They can slow your recovery.

Food and Beverages

- Eat well-balanced meals. Follow any instructions your health care provider gave you.
- Avoid alcohol while you are taking prescription pain medicine.

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Incision Care

- Follow any directions your health care provider gives you.
- Don't use lotions, creams, ointments, gels or powders on your incision site.

How to Flush the Biliary Tube

- Wash your hands well.
- Clean the end cap with alcohol pad.
- Attach saline syringe to the end cap.
- Put the sterile normal saline into the drain. (Follow your health care provider's directions for how much saline to use.)
- If you are unable to put saline in the drain, **stop** and call your radiologist.
- Untwist the syringe and remove it.

How to Empty the Drainage Bag

- If your tube is connected to a drainage bag, follow these steps.
- Empty the bag when it is half full.
- Place a container (empty jar or plastic bowl) near the opening of the drainage bag or position yourself so the drainage from the bag can go right into the toilet.
- Disconnect the cap on the opening of the drainage bag and empty the drainage into the container or toilet.
- Recap the drainage bag.
- Rinse the bag with a soapy solution of water and a mild detergent (such as Dreft®). Rinse it with cool water and let it air dry. Have two bags so you can wear one while drying the other.

When To Call Your Health Care Provider

Call your health care provider if:

- the drainage tube falls out, is pulled back or if you feel it is out of position
- you have a temperature of 100.4 F or higher
- you are unable to flush the drainage tube
- you see leakage around drainage tube site
- you have jaundice (yellow or orange/yellow color to your skin or your eyes)
- the drainage suddenly stops or you
- you have new pain or pain you can't control
- you have bleeding that gets worse
- you have problems having a bowel movement
- you have signs of infection at your incision site: pain, swelling, redness, odor, warmth, or green or yellow discharge
- you are unable to get out of bed
- you have nausea (upset stomach), bloating or vomiting (throwing up) that won't stop
- you have any questions or concerns.

If you have any of the above symptoms and can't talk with your health care provider, call 911 or have someone take you to an Emergency Department at a nearby hospital.

When To Call Your Radiologist

If your drain is capped and you have pain that gets worse, fever, chills, or leakage, remove cap and attach drainage bag and call your radiologist.

Follow-up Appointment

Please keep all follow-up appointments with your health care provider or specialist, even if you are feeling well.