

Care After Thoracentesis or Paracentesis

This information will help you care for yourself when you get home.

Activity

- Rest quietly today.
- Do not lift anything heavy for 24 hours.
- Do not exercise for 24 hours.
- You may remove the dressing in 24 hours.
- You may shower or take a bath after you remove the dressing.

Comfort

- You may feel tender at the puncture site for 24 to 48 hours.

When To Call Your Health Care Provider

Call your health care provider if you have any of the following:

- chills or a temperature higher than 100 F
- redness, warmth, drainage or swelling at the needle or puncture site
- increased chest or back pain
- dizziness or lightheadedness
- shortness of breath
- discomfort that doesn't go away.

Your Health Care Provider

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

If you have any questions about the exam, please call your health care provider.

If you do not receive your procedure results within 5 business days, please call your health care provider.