



## Procedure Information

### Abdominal Tapping

#### Introduction

Abdominal tapping/ Paracentesis is a surgical procedure used to remove ascites from the abdominal cavity. Ascites is a medical term that describes the excessive build-up of fluid in the abdomen. The increasing presence of fluid in the abdominal cavity may cause bloating, abdominal pain, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting and reduced mobility.

#### Outcomes

Symptoms can be relieved by draining excess fluid. The obtained fluid may be sent to the Pathology Department for culturing and analysis.

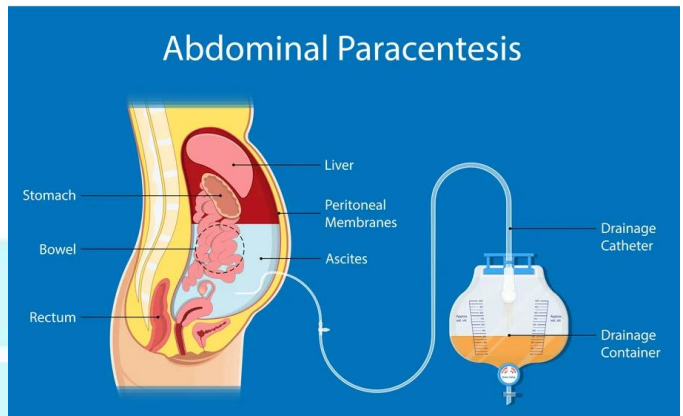
#### Procedures

1. The procedure is performed under local anaesthesia.
2. You are placed in a supine or lateral position.
3. Ultrasound examination may be performed to locate the fluid within the abdomen.
4. A small tube is inserted into the abdomen and the fluid is drained through the tube into a drainage bag.
5. A small amount of fluid is taken and sent to the Pathology Department for analysis if necessary.
6. The tube is removed when all the fluid has been drained.
7. A dressing is applied over the wound.

#### Possible Risks and Complications

1. Wound bleeding
2. Wound infection
3. The bowel, bladder or blood vessel may be punctured during the procedure
4. Low blood pressure
5. Renal failure

\*\* The risks listed above are in general terms and the possibility of complications is not exhaustive. Please understand that even though all procedures are carried out with utmost professionalism and care, this does not rule out the possibility of complications arising. In the event of peripheral organ damage or post-operative haemorrhage or leakage, further operations may be required.



Source:

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## **Pre-procedure Preparations**

1. The procedure and possible complications will be explained by the doctor and a consent form must be signed prior to the operation.
2. Please inform the doctor and nurse all your past medical history, previous surgical operations, current medication and any complication with drug or anaesthesia. Please inform doctor if you are taking medications that affect blood coagulation, such as Aspirin, Warfarin, Xarelto or Pradaxa and Chinese medicine.
3. Please inform our staff if you are or might be pregnant.
4. No food or drink four to six hours before the procedure. (if necessary)
5. Blood test may be performed.
6. Please change into a surgical gown after removing all belongings including undergarments, dentures, jewellery and contact lenses.
7. Please empty your bladder before the procedure.

## **Post-procedure Instructions**

1. Your blood pressure, pulse and temperature are regularly monitored if a large quantity of fluid has been drained.
2. Please inform the nurse of persistent abdominal pain. Proper pain relief treatment by injection or oral medication may be prescribed by the doctor.
3. The drainage tube can be removed within several hours to 48 hours on a case-by-case basis.
4. You can be discharged on the same day after the procedure.
5. The wound is covered with a waterproof sterile dressing. Keep the dressing clean and dry. It can be removed 48 hours after the removal of drainage tube if the wound heals properly.

## **Advice on Discharge**

1. Prescribed pain medication may be taken as needed.
2. Immediately consult your doctor or return to hospital for professional attention in the event of severe wound pain associated with redness and swelling, tenderness, drainage of pus, blood seepage, shivering, high fever over 38°C or 100.4°F, or any other unusual symptoms.
3. Any follow-up consultations should be attended as scheduled.

Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult the attending doctor.

Under the professional care of the doctor, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the doctor to further follow-up.

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Compiled by Union Hospital Operating Theatre (OT) Governance Committee

The above information is for reference only, please enquire your physician for details  
Our Hospital reserves the RIGHT to amend any information in this leaflet without prior notification