



Goshen Health

Paracentesis with Ultrasound Guidance

Your doctor has ordered an Ultrasound Guided Paracentesis. This procedure involves the removal of fluid from around your abdomen. Ultrasound imaging is used to evaluate amount and location of fluid. There are a few things you should know before you arrive to the Ultrasound department.

PREPARATION:

- 1) You will need to have lab/blood work (PT, INR, PTT, and platelets) before your procedure.
- 2) You need to eat very lightly, or not at all, the day of your procedure.
- 3) You *must be off any blood thinners and anti-platelet medications for 5-7 days before the procedure*. The radiologist will review exceptions to this on a patient-by-patient basis.
- 4) You will need to sign a consent form before your procedure.
- 5) This procedure can take about an hour.

BEFORE THE PROCEDURE: For your safety, you will be asked a number of questions by the sonographer, nurse, and/or radiologist. Possible questions include, but are not limited to:

- What kind of symptoms are you having?
- Any previous surgeries?
- Pertinent medical history?
- Any medical allergies or prescription medication you take?

THE PROCEDURE: The radiologist will explain the procedure and any complications that might arise. You will need to lie on your back/side for 45-60 minutes. You will need to expose your abdomen area. The radiologist will scan to evaluate the fluid amount and location. He/she will cleanse/sterilize that area and inject numbing medicine for your comfort. The radiologist will then introduce a needle/catheter into the abdomen, connect a drainage tube, and drain the fluid into a container. There is some discomfort/pressure, but it should be tolerable. Your physician might have the fluid sent to lab/pathology for testing.

AFTER YOUR TEST: You may resume activities as you can tolerate. You will receive more detailed discharge instructions when you are done with the procedure.

RESULTS: The radiologist will study your case and images and dictate a report, which will be transcribed for your ordering physician to review and discuss with you. Your sonographer is unable to give any results at the time of the procedure.

Every effort will be made to make you as comfortable as possible during your examination. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the Imaging staff at (574) 364-2819.