



Imaging

Drainage Aftercare Sheet

ACS-Imag-BSUH-001

PLEURAL AND ASCITIC DRAINAGE AFTERCARE SHEET

1. Samples

If samples are to be sent they should be as follows:

- Biochemistry – Protein & LDH – gold top blood bottle
- +/- pH (pH sticks)
- +/- Triglycerides and cholesterol (if chylous) - gold top blood bottle
- +/- Glucose – grey top bottle
- Microbiology – MC&S
- +/- TB – clear sterile container
- +/- Blood culture bottles if infection suspected
- Cytology – Brown cytology container up to 500mls

2. The patient can be transferred to the ward connected to a bag, but the tap must be closed. Ensure the connections are tight.
3. Indicate in the hospital notes the volume of fluid removed for samples and what time drainage can be restarted (Maximum of 1 litre in the first hour).
4. On arrival to the ward the bag should be replaced with an underwater seal by a nurse or doctor who is familiar with this process. Please contact Respiratory team if unsure.
5. Please observe BP, Pulse and O₂ saturation ¼ hourly for 1 hour, ½ hourly until drainage complete.
6. A maximum volume of 1L can be drained in the first hour and thereafter no more than 1.5L every 2 hours if complete drainage is necessary.
7. If the patient gets more short of breath call a member of the team.
8. To remove a pigtail drain please ensure the locking mechanism is released before pulling. If the drain does not slide out easily contact a member of the team to decide if it is appropriate to cut the drain just skin side of the hub, pinch the tube to avoid air entering the pleural space and gently pull.

If there are any concerns regarding the drain please contact either the doctor who placed it or the on call respiratory team.

Ascitic

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 - Microbiology – MC&S
 - +/- TB – clear sterile container
 - +/- Blood culture bottles if infection suspected
 - Cytology – Brown cytology container up to 500mls
2. The tube will be connected to a bag, but the tap must be closed for transfer.
3. Indicate in the hospital notes the volume of fluid removed for samples and what time drainage can be restarted.
4. Please observe BP & P ¼ hourly for 1 hour then ½ hourly until drainage is complete.
5. A maximum rate of 1 litre/hour can be drained; up to a maximum volume of 6 litres.
6. To remove a pigtail drain ensure the locking mechanism is released before pulling. If the drain does not slide out easily phone a member of the team to decide if the drain should be cut just skin side of the hub and gently pulled.