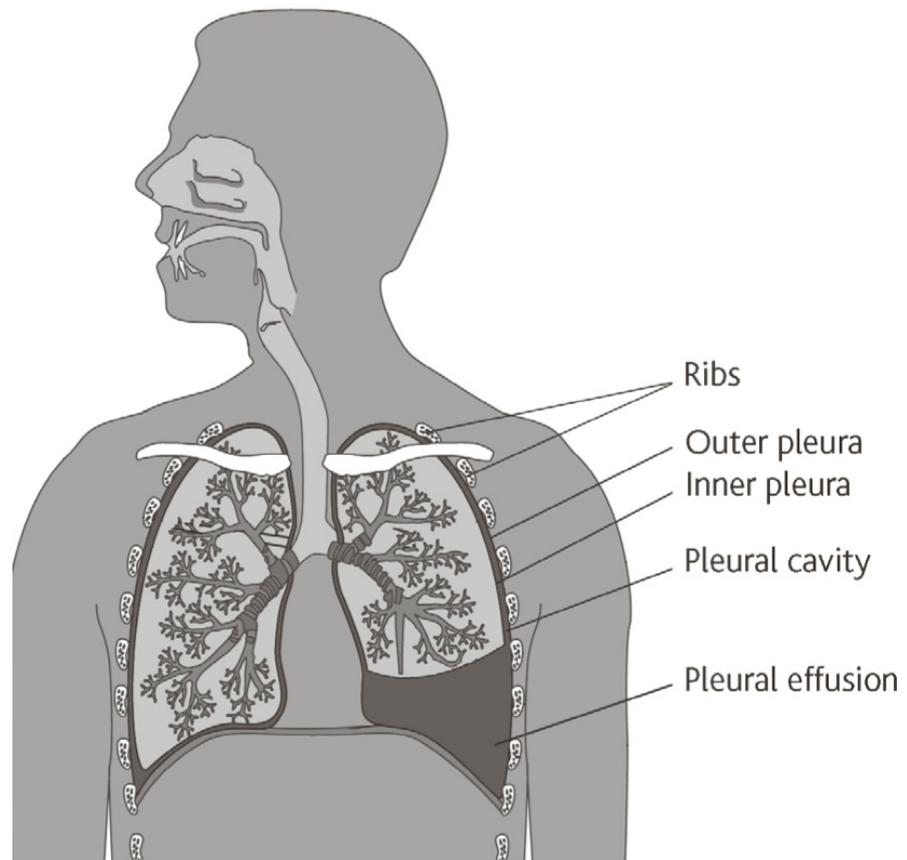


# Diagnostic Pleural Aspiration

## Information for Patients

### What is a diagnostic pleural aspiration?

A pleural aspiration is a sterile procedure that involves placing a needle through your skin into the space between your lungs and rib cage (the **pleural space**) to take a sample of the fluid that has accumulated.



## Who will be doing the procedure & where?

The procedure will be carried out by a qualified doctor with a suitable level of experience. Because this is a Teaching Hospital, the doctor performing the procedure may be supervised by a senior doctor.

The procedure will take place in the procedure room in the Acute Medical Unit on Level 5 of the Thomas Kemp Tower at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

## How do I prepare?

You may be asked to have a blood test a few days before you come to hospital.

Please take any normal medicines including painkillers before you come in. If you are on blood thinning treatment such as Warfarin, Clopidogrel or injections your doctor should have arranged for these to be stopped in advance. If this is not the case please ensure that you tell the medical team on arrival.

You may also eat and drink as normal.

Most patients will be asked to arrive in the morning and be able to leave an hour or two after the procedure.

## What happens during the procedure?

You will be asked to lie down on a bed where the doctor will use an ultrasound machine to show where best to insert the needle. The ultrasound enables the doctor to 'look' through the chest wall, it is painless and non-invasive. A cool gel is used on the skin to ensure good contact for the ultrasound probe.

Your skin will be cleaned and then a local anaesthetic will be injected to numb the area before the needle is inserted. The fluid will be removed and sent to the laboratory for testing.

## Will it hurt?

The local anaesthetic will sting at first but it will allow the needle to be inserted without causing too much discomfort. Once everything has been set-up the procedure itself should only take 10-15 minutes.

## Are there any risks during the procedure?

There is a very small risk of infection and bleeding but every effort is made to prevent this from happening. Air can also sometimes leak into the pleural space during the procedure and occasionally this may require the placement of a chest drain to remove the air. This could involve a short admission.

## Important things to know after the procedure

If you feel more breathless, please tell the nursing staff. If this occurs when you are at home you should call for medical assistance as it is possible that air has built up in the space.

The results will usually be discussed in clinic within 7-14 days.

## What happens afterwards?

You may have a stitch left in which is usually removed after 7 days. Some people have a little pain after the procedure which may be helped by painkillers. If you have a lot of pain, difficulty breathing, or fever please tell a doctor or nurse so they can look for a cause and treat it.

### Useful Contact Numbers & Website

Acute Medical Unit - 01273696955 (Ext. 3435)

District Nurses - 01273 885000

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

If you do not understand this leaflet, we can arrange for an interpreter.

إذا كنت لا تستطيع فهم محتويات هذه النشرة فيمكننا عمل الترتيبات لتوفير مترجم شفوي لك.

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اگر مندرجات این جزوه را نمیفهمید، ما می‌توانیم مترجم در اختیارتان بگذاریم.

Jeśli masz trudności w zrozumieniu tej ulotki, możemy zorganizować tłumacza.

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Ref number: 616

Publication Date: August 2014 Review Date: August 2016

