What does the procedure involve?

If you are more than 40 years old and the doctor suggests this then a catheter is inserted into the abscess/cyst, this drains the fluid in order to stop the cyst or abscess coming back. The procedure can be done in the Gynaecology Assessment Unit on Level 11 and requires no preparation.
A small amount of local anaesthetic is injected via a tiny needle into the cyst or abscess. A hole is made to drain the fluid away. A short rubber tube, called a catheter, is placed inside the gland and the balloon at the end of the catheter is inflated with saline in order to keep the catheter in place. The catheter remains in the gland so that the hole stays open permanently, even when the catheter is removed. The catheter is designed to stay in for up to 4-6 weeks, but sometimes falls out before this. If the catheter falls out in the first 2 weeks, please contact L11- Gynae Assessment Unit (GAU) for advice/re assessment.

**What does this catheter mean for my normal activities?**

The catheter should not interfere with usual activities. Most women can go about their work and exercise with no problem. For convenience, the end of the catheter can be tucked inside the vagina. It is recommended to avoid tampon insertion or douching.

**What follow up will I get?**

You will be asked to come back in 4-6 weeks for removal of WORD catheter. If the catheter falls out prior to this, please contact GAU.
Who can I contact if I have any concerns or questions?

Royal Sussex County Hospital
Level 11- Gynaecology Ward/Assessment Unit:
01237 523191

Produced by Samantha Nair - L11 Gynaecology
References: NICE interventional procedure guidance 323
Information Leaflets: Bartholin’s Cyst/Abscess. (www.patient.co.uk)