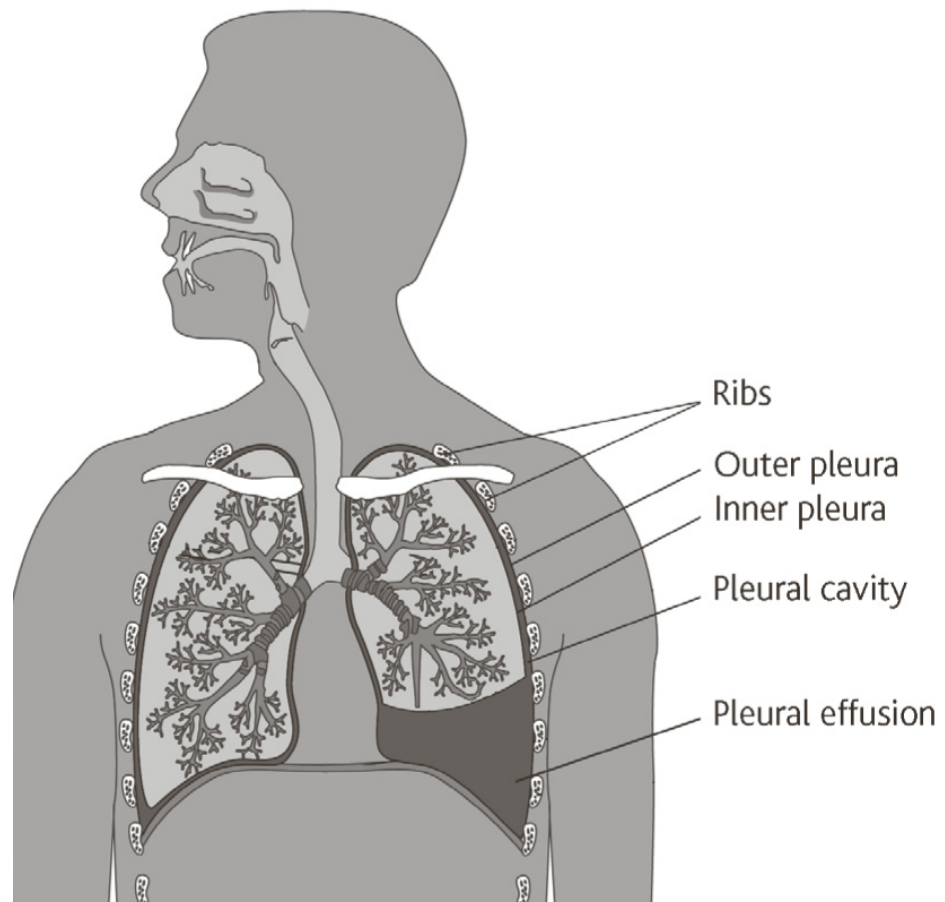


Therapeutic Pleural Aspiration

Information for Patients

What is a therapeutic pleural aspiration?

A pleural aspiration is a sterile procedure that involves placing a small drain through your skin into the space between your lungs and rib cage (the **pleural space**) to drain 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 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 drain. 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. The small drain will then be inserted between the ribs in the anaesthetised area and connected to a tube and a one-way bag. The whole procedure will usually take up to one hour.

Will it hurt?

The local anaesthetic will sting at first but it will allow the needle to be inserted without causing too much discomfort.

How will the drain be attached?

We sometimes use a stitch to tie the drain in and an adhesive dressing is attached which holds it onto the skin. however please take care when moving as drains can still be pulled out.

How will the drain be removed?

This is straight forward and is done by the doctor or a nurse. Once all the dressings are removed the drain will be gently pulled out. You may be asked to hold your breath in a special way when this is done. It can be uncomfortable but only lasts a few seconds.

Are there any risks during the procedure?

There is a small risk of infection and bleeding but every effort is made to prevent this from happening. Air can sometimes leak into the pleural space during the procedure but this is not usually a problem and it will usually come out when the drain is in place.

Important things to know about your therapeutic pleural aspiration

Fluid will drain from the chest; this is usually clear but sometimes may be blood stained. This is not uncommon and you should not be alarmed.

There is no need for you to be in pain but if you are please ask the nursing staff for painkillers

The drain may come out if pulled or twisted so please take care.

What happens afterwards?

Some people may have a little pain after the procedure which may be helped by painkillers. However, if you do 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.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions at any time should you have any concerns whatsoever.

Useful Contact Numbers & Website

Acute Medical Unit - 01273696955 (Ext. 3435)

District Nurses - 01273 885000

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.

এই প্রচারপুস্তিকাকাটি যদি আপনি বুঝতে না পারেন, তবে আপনার জন্য আমরা একজন অনুবাদকের ব্যবস্থা করে দিতে পারি

如你唔明白本單張的內容，我們可安排口譯員服務。

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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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Disclaimer

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is in no way intended to replace professional clinical advice by a qualified practitioner.

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