

Interventional Radiology

Biliary Drainage

What Is Biliary Drainage?

Biliary Drainage is a procedure in which the catheter is placed through your skin and into your liver to drain your bile. This procedure is performed in the Interventional Radiology Department by an Interventional Radiologist. X-ray imaging helps the Interventional Radiologist guide the catheter into exactly the right place.

Why Do I Need Biliary Drainage?

The most common reason for biliary drainage is blockage to the bile ducts. The liver makes bile, which aids digestion. Normally these ducts (like pipes) carry the bile from the liver into the bowel. When your bile ducts are blocked, the bile backs up in you liver. Signs that your bile ducts are blocked include jaundice (yellow skin color), dark urine, light stools, nausea and poor appetite. Some people experience severe itching. Biliary drainage can relieve these symptoms by giving the bile a pathway to leave the liver.

Biliary drainage may also be needed if a hole forms and bile leaks from the duct. This leakage can cause pain and severe infection. Biliary Drainage can stop the leaking and help the hole to heal.

Biliary drainage may also be needed in preparation for surgery or other procedure on your bile ducts, such as the removal of a bile duct stone.

How Do I Prepare For My Biliary Drainage?

If you are an inpatient your caregivers will help you prepare for the procedure. If you are being admitted the morning of the procedure or having the procedure done outpatient-follow these guidelines unless specified by your physician.

Eating:

Do not eat any solid food after midnight on the night before your procedure. You may drink clear liquids.

Medication:

Most people can continue to take their prescribed medicines with a small amount of liquid. If you are a diabetic and take insulin, talk to your physician about modifying your insulin dose for the day of the procedure. If you take the blood thinner, Coumadin, or any other blood thinner, you must tell your physician so that it can be stopped. Bring all medications and herbals with you.

Everyone having a biliary drainage will have blood tests done close to the day of the procedure. Before your procedure an intravenous line (IV) will be placed into your vein and antibiotics will be given through it to help

prevent infection. The IV will be used to give you other medicines and fluids during the procedure. Before the procedure begins a member of the Interventional Radiology Team will talk with you about the procedure and is available to answer questions and concerns.

What Is A Biliary Drainage Procedure Like? Does It Hurt?

Before the procedure, pain medication will be started through your IV. Your Interventional Radiologist will also numb the area with a local anesthetic. You may feel some pressure during the procedure.

The Biliary Drainage Procedure has three major steps:

- Placement of a needle into the bile duct.
- Placement of a guide wire farther into the duct.
- Placement of the drainage catheter over the wire.

The procedure usually takes about 2 hour to perform, but this is not an absolute timeline.

What Happens After The Biliary Drainage?

When the procedure is completed, you will go to your hospital room where your caregivers will monitor you. Your caregivers will let you know when and what you can eat and drink and how long you must remain in bed. Each patient's length of stay will vary.

If you had symptoms of bile duct blockage (such as jaundice) before your biliary drainage catheter was placed, you will notice these symptoms gradually disappear. You may be sore up to a week after the procedure.

The biliary drainage catheter is about the same size as IV tubing or a little smaller. The catheter will be connected to a drainage bag and your bile will drain into the bag. In some cases, the drainage bag will not be needed after a few days and the catheter will be capped off.

How Long Will I Need The Drainage Catheter?

This will depend on why the catheter was placed to begin with. If the catheter is to be placed to relieve blockage of your bile duct you will need the catheter as long as the blockage is present. Stones, infection, scar tissue or a tumor can block your bile duct. Some patients need this drainage catheter for the rest of their lives. If your catheter was placed because you have a hole in your bile duct, you will need the catheter until the hole has healed. If your catheter is placed in preparing you for

surgery, or another procedure, you will need the catheter until afterwards. Discuss these issues with your physician.

What Are The Risks Of Biliary Drainage?

Even though biliary drainage is safe, complications can occur. The most frequent complications are infection and bleeding. This is why you need to stay in the hospital after the catheter is placed.

Because everyone is different, there may be other risks involved with your biliary drainage that you can discuss with your physician or Interventional Radiologist before the procedure.

What Are The Benefits Of Biliary Drainage?

If your bile duct is blocked, the bile drainage catheter will relieve your symptoms, such as jaundice and itching.

In some cases, the catheter can help your physicians eliminate the source of the blockage. An example is if you have stones, your physician may be able to remove the stones through the catheter tract without surgery. If your bile duct is blocked because of scar tissue, your physician maybe able to use instruments through the catheter tract to enlarge the duct in the scarred area. In some cases, a permanent stent can be placed in the duct to hold it open. Your physician will advise you on the best options available to you.

What Is An Interventional Radiologist?

Interventional Radiologists are physicians who specialize in minimally invasive, targeted treatments performed using imaging guidance. They use their expertise in reading X-rays, ultrasound, MRI and other diagnostic imaging equipment to guide tiny instruments such as catheters, through blood vessels or through the skin to treat diseases without surgery. Interventional Radiologists are board-certified and fellowship trained in nonsurgical invasive interventions using imaging guidance. The American Board of Medical Specialties certifies their specialized training. Your Interventional Radiologist will work closely with your primary caregiver or other physicians to be sure you receive the best possible care.

Your (test/procedure) _____

is scheduled on (date) _____

at (time) _____ , (location) _____

Helpful tips:

- Wear comfortable clothes.
- Bring someone with you to drive you home after the procedure if you are not going to be admitted to the hospital.
- Leave all items such as cash, jewelry, credit cards and other valuables at home.
- Bring all your medications.
- Bring all necessary insurance information.

Notes: _____

If unable to keep this appointment, kindly give 24 hours notice by calling 701-780-5800.

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