

Abscess Drainage



What is an abscess?

An abscess is a collection of infected fluid. For this procedure, a special doctor called an Interventional Radiologist will use a small needle to pull that fluid out (aspiration). Or they may place a catheter (tube) into the collection so it can drain for a few days.

Things to Note After the Procedure:

- **Pain:** You may feel some discomfort after the procedure. If you are in the hospital, ask your doctor for pain medicine.
- **Activity:** Don't do any intense physical activity for 24 hours.
- **Going Back to School or Work:** You may go back to school or work the next day.
- **Follow-up:** The drainage catheter can be in place for several days. Someone from your care team can take out the catheter at bedside after it stops draining.

Dressing Care:

- **If there is no drainage catheter:** you may shower with the waterproof dressing on. Take off the dressing in 24 hours.
- **If there is a drainage catheter:** sponge bathe around the dressing. Your child can shower again 24 hours after the catheter is removed.

Return to the Emergency Department (ED) if:

- Your pain gets worse even after taking over-the-counter pain medicine.
- The area gets more red, swollen, or starts to leak fluid (pus or blood).
- You start shaking with chills or have a fever higher than 101 F (38.5 C).
- You have a hard time breathing.

Interventional Radiology Contact Information:

- **For non-emergent questions:**
Please call (323) 361- 2436 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- **For emergencies:**
Please go to the nearest emergency room.

Interventional Radiology

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