WellSpan Imaging
A service of York Hospital

Imaging Patient Education

What you should know about your ***Biliary Tube Placement*.**

Purpose:

A biliary catheter is a tube that goes through your skin and liver into your bile ducts. In some cases the bile drains out of your body into a drainage bag. In other cases the catheter drains the bile into the bowel and you do not need a bag outside. You may need a biliary tube for reasons such as blockage of the bile ducts, a hole in the bile ducts or preparation for surgery on the ducts.

Preparation:

- Blood work will be drawn before the exam.
- You will be asked not to eat anything for six hours prior to the procedure.
- You can take medicines with clear liquids.
- Antibiotics will be given through an intravenous (IV) catheter either in your hospital room or in the X-ray department before the procedure.
- X-ray dye will be needed to enhance your exam. If you are allergic to the x-ray dye you may need to be pre-medicated. You will be given a prescription prior to your procedure and the prescription will need to be filled at a WellSpan Pharmacy. Premedication consists of a combination of medications such as steroids and antihistamines (Benadryl), so please inform us if you can not take either of these medicines. Taking antihistamines can cause drowsiness so you will need someone to drive you to and from your appointment.
- You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and to wear a gown during the exam. You may be asked to remove watches, necklaces or earrings if they interfere with the exam.

Procedure: What to Expect

- You will be asked to verify your name, date of birth and the exam you will be having done.
- We will take a brief medical history.
- Prior to signing the consent form to allow the exam, the radiologist will talk with you and your family about the exam and answer any questions you may have.
- The exam will start with you either in the CT scanner or a specialized x-ray room. If started in the CT scanner you will eventually be moved to the x-ray room.
- Heart monitor patches will be placed on your chest to check your blood pressure and heart rate.
- You will be sedated to make you quite sleepy, but will still be able to hear what we say to you.
- The staff will be wearing gowns and masks to help keep the procedure area clean to reduce the risk of infection and there will be sterile drapes over you.
- The exam is started by locating an area between the ribs where the biliary tube can be placed by using either the CT scanner or ultrasound.
- That area is numbed heavily.

Biliary Tube Placement continued

- A very thin, long needle is passed through that area into the liver until the needle is in a bile duct.
- The needle in the duct is removed and the biliary tube is inserted to drain the bile. This may be uncomfortable and painful, but you will be sedated as much as possible.
- The radiologist moves the tube into position, and the biliary tube is secured to the skin.

After the Test:

- If you are a hospital patient, you will return to your room. If you are an outpatient you will be taken to the Short Stay Unit for recovery or it is possible that your doctor will want you to be admitted to the hospital overnight.
- The nurse from the x-ray department will check the tube sight and make sure it is secured to your skin.
- Before you leave, a nurse will give you and your family proper instructions on caring for the tube and bandage. Special care must be taken so that the tube stays in place.
- You will need to have someone drive you home and be able to stay with you for 24 hours.
- Your exam will be evaluated by a radiologist and the report will be sent to your physician.

Note You will be exposed to ionizing radiation as part of the procedure. Women should always inform their physician or x-ray technologist if there is any chance of pregnancy.

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