

Your Percutaneous Transhepatic Drainage Tube



UHN

This drainage catheter goes into your liver to drain bile out of your liver.

Name:			
Procedure Date:			
What time to arrive:			
Please come to the Medical Imaging Day Unit located at: Medical Imaging Reception 1st floor Clinical Services building			
Please bring: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your health card• Your hospital blue card			

It is also called a biliary drainage catheter or a PTCD catheter.

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What is a percutaneous transhepatic drainage tube?

A percutaneous transhepatic drainage is a procedure that helps you to drain bile from your liver. This procedure is also called an insertion of a biliary drainage tube.

The procedure is done in the Medical Imaging department in Interventional Radiology.

This procedure is necessary in most cases because your main bile duct in your liver is blocked.

Normally, bile flows to your bowels from this duct to help absorb the fat that you eat. When the bile duct is blocked, bile does not go out of your system. It starts to build up in your blood.

Your skin may look yellow. You might feel itchy.

The Interventional Radiologist inserts the tube guided by x-ray and ultrasound. Once in your liver, the tube will drain bile out of your system into a drainage bag.

Preparing for your PTCB

You need to have blood tests before the day of your procedure. You must not eat any solid food after midnight on the night before your procedure.

You may drink clear fluids.

You may take your morning medications with sips of water unless told otherwise.

You will come to the Medical Imaging Department.

Please come approximately 60 minutes before your appointment time. We use this time to get you ready.

- You will change into a hospital gown
- We will put an intravenous in your arm to give you antibiotics, pain medicine and sedatives during your procedure.
- You can ask us any questions that you have

What happens during the procedure?

After you are ready, we will take you to the Interventional Radiology department on a stretcher.

The radiologist will talk to you about the procedure. He or she will ask you to sign a consent form so that we can do the procedure.

You will then go into the procedure room and move onto the table.

We will give you a local anaesthetic (freezing) in the area where we will do your procedure and if necessary, some sedation similar to valium.

The radiologist will put a needle through your skin into your bile duct.



He or she will put a guide wire over this needle then the drainage tube over the guide wire.

It is normal to have pain during the procedure. We will give you pain medicine and sedation to help you stay comfortable.

Once the tube is in place, the radiologist takes out the needle and the guide wire. He or she secures the tube.

This procedure usually takes 60 – 90 minutes.

What happens after the procedure

You will go back to your room.

The nursing staff will check your vital signs (temperature, pulse, breathing rate and blood pressure).

We will connect the drainage catheter to a drainage bag. Your bile will drain out of your body into this bag.

You may be sore for 7 – 10 days. Take plain or extra strength Tylenol™ for this discomfort.

Long Term Plans

This procedure works well to get rid of the built up bile in your liver and body. But your system does not get the bile in your bowel.

You may have this tube for a short time or a long time. It depends on your blockage.

This tube may be the best long-term solution for you. If so, you may have another procedure to move the end of the tube. Instead of having a bag attached, the tube can be moved around the blockage and then attached inside of you to your bowel. If this is done, you will not need the drainage bag any more.

How do I take care of my biliary drainage tube?

Please see the brochure called **Caring for your PTCD tube**.

If you have problems with your PTCB tube, you can call the Medical Imaging department and ask to speak with a radiology nurse.

The number is:
(416) 340 – 3362.

The hours are:
Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For routine tube changes, you may call our booking desk to make an appointment. When you call, tell the booking clerk that you need an outpatient appointment in the Interventional radiology department.

The number is:
(416) 340 – 4800 Ext. 3384.

The hours are:
Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you have questions about your percutaneous transhepatic drainage tube, or if you need other information, please call the Medical Imaging department. Ask to speak with a nurse.

The number is:
(416) 340 – 3362.