

Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt (TIPS)

Patient and Family Education

What is it?

Why do I need it?

Why can't I have it?



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Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt



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What is the TIPS procedure?

TIPS is a radiologic procedure in which a stent is placed in the middle of the liver to re-route the blood flow.

It is not a surgical procedure – the radiologist performs the procedure within the vessels under x-ray guidance.

Why do I have to have the TIPS procedure?

The TIPS procedure is used to manage complications of portal hypertension such as:

- variceal bleeding (varicies are large veins that develop in the esophagus and stomach when there is a blockage of blood flow throughout the liver)
- ascites (an accumulation of fluid in the abdomen)

The TIPS procedure re-routes blood flow in the liver and reduces pressure in all abnormal veins, not only in the stomach, but also in the bowel and liver.

Why can't I have TIPS?

- Right sided heart problems
- Polycystic liver disease
- Severe liver failure
- Infection
- Liver cancer
- Hepatic encephalopathy
- Portal vein thrombus

Possible Complications:

- Infection
- Bleeding
- Hepatic Encephalopathy
- Shunt Occlusion
- Heart failure

