

Information about having a

# **Percutaneous Biliary Drainage**



**Diagnostic Imaging**

## **What is a Percutaneous Biliary Drainage?**

This is the passage of a tube through the skin into the liver to allow bile to be drained externally. This is because the bile ducts have become blocked. The build up of bile within the liver makes you extremely susceptible to infection. You will become jaundiced and possibly experience itchy skin.

## **Who will do it?**

A specially trained doctor called a Radiologist.

## **Where will it be done?**

Usually in a screening room in the x-ray department. It may also be done in an operating theatre.

## **When can I discuss the procedure?**

You can discuss this with your referring doctor in the ward, and also the Radiologist before the procedure.

## **Consent**

We will ask you to sign a consent form before the procedure. Please make sure that you ask any questions you may have. When signing the form you should know what we plan to do, alternative treatments, and any risks or complication of the procedure.

## **What preparation is required before the procedure?**

We will take routine blood tests. You cannot eat for 6 hours before the procedure but you may to drink small amounts of clear fluid up to 2 hours before the procedure. You will be on a drip and we will give you antibiotics either on the ward or in the x-ray department.

You will need to undress and wear a hospital gown.

## **What happens during the procedure?**

This is a sterile procedure however the technique used may vary.

We will give you sedatives and, or painkillers via a needle in your arm. We will monitor your vital signs (blood pressure, pulse, oxygen intake). You may need oxygen.

The Radiologist will use the x-ray and ultrasound equipment to carry out the procedure.

The Radiologist will anaesthetise the skin using local anaesthetic. They pass a fine needle into the liver. Then they pass a fine bore tube over the needle into the biliary tree and the bile can be drained externally.

You may experience some slight discomfort for a short period of time but painkillers will help this.

### **How long will it take?**

This can vary for a number of reasons however you can expect to be in the x-ray department for about one hour.

### **What happens afterwards?**

You will return to your ward and remain on bed rest for a few hours. The nursing staff will monitor you and carry out routine observations (blood pressure pulse etc). They will also monitor the puncture site and the type and amount of fluid draining.

The drainage catheter stays in place and may be attached to a collection bag.

You may need further checks and procedures to assess the position of the tube and monitor the flow of bile.

The doctor looking after you will decide how long the catheter has to remain in place. Removing the catheter is usually pain free.

### **Are there any risks?**

There are potential complications, as with any invasive procedure.

Infection is a risk and for this reason you will be given antibiotics.

Other complications can include bleeding. This may need treatment in the x-ray department or occasionally an operation.

During the procedure bacteria in the bile may be released into the blood stream, making you unwell. You may get a shivering attack (a rigor) and develop an increase in temperature but this is generally treated successfully with antibiotics and fluids via a drip.

**If you have any questions please telephone the number on your appointment card or letter.**



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