

Procedures/Diagnostic Tests

Paracentesis

You are scheduled for paracentesis. This procedure removes fluid from your abdomen so that your doctor can do diagnostic tests on it. Paracentesis is also done to relieve abdominal pressure caused by excess fluid in your abdomen.

Preparation

There is no special preparation. You may eat and drink whatever you like before the test.

Preparation

- You will be asked to lie flat on your back in bed.
- Your abdomen will be cleansed with iodine and alcohol.
- A local anesthetic will be injected into your abdomen. This will feel like a bee sting and numbs the area where the needle will be inserted.
- The doctor will insert a needle into your abdomen, and fluid will be drained into a syringe or container.
- After the fluid has been drained, the needle will be withdrawn. A small pressure bandage will be put on the area.
- The procedure lasts between 30 to 60 minutes.

Preparation

- Depending on how much fluid was removed, you may feel a little dizzy after this procedure. Ask your nurse for help the first time you get up.
- There are no restrictions on your diet or activities.

If you have questions about the procedure, please ask. Your nurse and doctor are ready to assist you at all times.

Special instructions

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

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