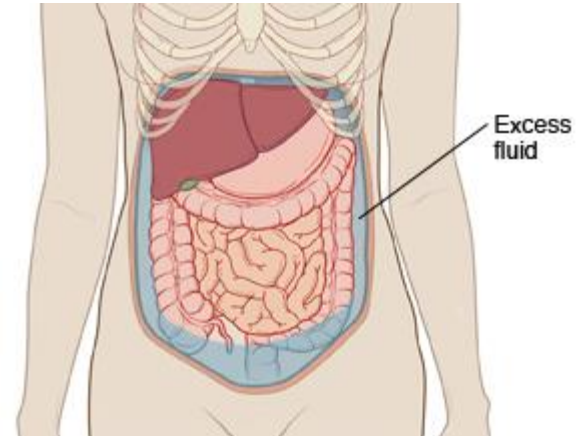


Paracentesis Procedure

Paracentesis is a procedure to remove extra fluid from your belly (abdomen). This fluid buildup in the abdomen is called **ascites**. The procedure may have been done to take a sample of the fluid or, it may have been done to drain the extra fluid from your abdomen and help make you more comfortable.



Home care:

- If you have pain after the procedure, your healthcare provider can prescribe or recommend pain medicines. Take these exactly as directed.
- If you stopped taking other medicines before the procedure, ask your provider when you can start them again.
- Rest for 24 hours after the procedure. Don't do any physical activity until your provider says it's OK.
- You will have a small bandage over the needle insertion site. Stitches, surgical staples, adhesive tapes, adhesive strips, or surgical glue may be used to close the incision. They also help stop bleeding and speed healing. You may take the bandage off in 24 hours.
- Check the needle insertion site for the signs of infection listed below.

Follow-up care:

- Make a follow-up appointment with your healthcare provider as directed.
- During your follow-up visit, your healthcare team will check your healing.
- Let your healthcare team know how you are feeling.
- You can also discuss the cause of your ascites and if you need any further treatment.
- You may need antibiotics if you have an infection.
- In some cases, the paracentesis may need to be repeated if the fluid returns.
- Your healthcare team may also prescribe medicines that increase urination (diuretics) to decrease the buildup of fluid.

When to call your healthcare team

Call your healthcare team if you have any of the following after the procedure at 732-235-2465:

- A fever of 100.4° F or higher, or as directed by your provider
- Chills
- Trouble breathing

- Pain that doesn't go away even after taking pain medicine
- Belly pain not caused by the paracentesis procedure
- Bleeding from the needle insertion site
- More than a small amount of fluid leaking from the needle insertion site
- Rapidly recurring belly swelling
- Signs of infection at the needle insertion site. These include:
 - increased pain
 - redness
 - swelling
 - warmth
 - bad-smelling drainage
- Blood in your urine
- Feeling dizzy, lightheaded or fainting

If you are in need of immediate assistance, please call 732-235-2465 and select the option that best meets your needs.