

How to deal with complications

If you notice any of these complications or have any other concern related to your wound, contact:

- Info-Santé 8-1-1;
- Your outpatient service centre;
- Your home support service (nurses);
- Make an appointment with your doctor, if necessary.

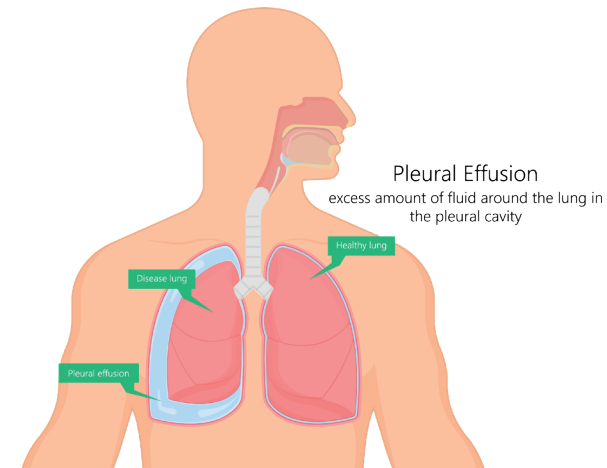
For any emergency outside the opening hours of the outpatient service centre or medical clinic, quickly go to the nearest emergency room.

DRAINAGE OF PLEURAL FLUID

Indications

Your doctor has prescribed this treatment if there is a large amount of fluid in your lungs (in the pleural space) on a recurrent basis.

The pleural space is the area between your lung and your ribs. Only a very small amount of liquid is normally present. When fluid builds up in the pleural space, the lung has difficulty filling with air. This makes it more difficult to breathe. This is called a pleural effusion.



Why drain the fluid?

To relieve the main symptoms of pleural effusion: shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (dyspnea), cough, pain or a feeling of heaviness in the chest, anxiety, fear of suffocation, and a general feeling of discomfort.

Short-term catheter

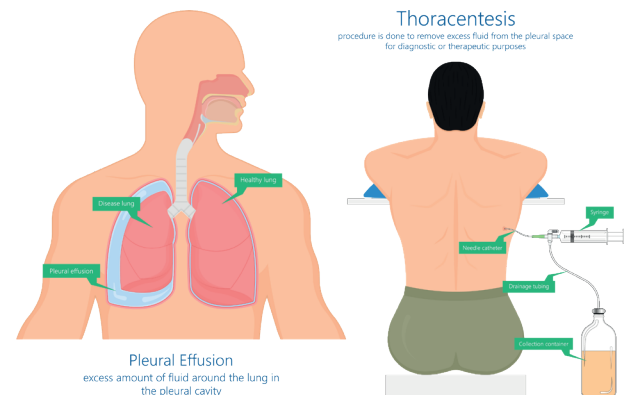
To perform the drainage, a short-term catheter will be installed in radiology or in the operating room. It will be installed and removed at each drainage. This is followed by the application of a dressing to cover the drainage site, which is kept on for 24 hours before it can be removed.

What does a drainage involve?

Following the insertion of a short-term catheter into your lungs, a medical procedure will be performed to remove the accumulated fluid according as directed by your doctor.

First, the fluid can be drained via free drainage with a tube connected to a collection bag that uses gravity. This method can take a long time. It all depends on the amount of fluid to be drained and the rate at which it flows.

The second option is to connect your catheter to a vacuum suction device which will have the same result, albeit quicker than the first, of draining the excess fluid by negative vacuum suction pressure via specialized vacuum bottles.



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Prior to the pleural drainage

The medical team will welcome you and place you in a comfortable position. Your weight may be recorded before or after the treatment, according to medical advice. The nurse will take your vital signs before, during and after the treatment to make sure that you are tolerating the treatment well. Afterwards, the nurse will remove the existing dressing covering your catheter and connect the device to drain the fluid according to the chosen system.

The length of the procedure is variable. It depends on the volume to be drained as well as your tolerance during the session. If you feel any discomfort or significant pain during the session, you should notify the staff immediately. When the treatment is finished, the nurse will re-dress the wound and give you the instructions for your return home (in this brochure).

Frequency

The speed at which the fluid returns varies from person to person. Most users need drainage two to three times a week. If necessary, it can be done every day. The doctor will determine the frequency and amount of drainages according to your needs.

Amount of fluid removed per session

The volume to be removed will follow the recommendations of your doctor.

The necessary precautions

You can take showers, taking care not to rub the bandage and to pat it dry. However, avoid baths and bodies of water such as swimming pools, spas and outdoor lakes for 24 hours.

**Please note that some cases require special follow-up and different management. Please take into consideration the instructions and recommendations specific to your situation according to your medical condition.*

Signs of complication

Seek help if one or more of the following signs of complications appear:

- Redness, swelling, local heat (these signs are normal within the first 24-48 hours of placement);
- Persistent drainage and/or foul odour after cleaning;
- Significant increase in pain;
- Onset of fever;
- Opening of the wound.

If you notice fluid leaking through your catheter or blood leaking around the drain or if your dressing is loose, you should also seek help.

