

Insert patient details/patient sticker

Respiratory medicine

After your pleural aspiration

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Introduction

This leaflet provides information about recovering after a pleural aspiration. Please read this information carefully and if you have any questions, please contact your clinical team.

What happens after your procedure?

Today (.....) you have had a pleural aspiration of your RIGHT / LEFT side at ST. MARY'S / CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL. This is generally a very safe procedure. The following information explains what to expect after your procedure:

- you may have some mild pain around where the needle entered the pleural space (the lining of the lung). This should settle in a day or two but you may wish to take paracetamol for the pain
- your breathing should improve following the aspiration if we have drained a significant amount of fluid from the lung (over 500 millilitres), but sometimes people experience more difficulty breathing and have a temporary cough. This should settle within 24 hours and is most likely to be the result of the lung re-inflating
- the risk of acquiring an infection from the procedure is very small indeed, but if you become unwell with a fever (high temperature), breathlessness and tiredness in the days or weeks following the procedure, please see your doctor or contact the pleural team

Washing

You are advised to keep the area dry for 24 hours. A small dressing will have been applied to the needle entry site and this can be removed after 24 hours.

How to contact us

If you have any queries or concerns (Monday to Friday between 09.00 and 17.00) please contact the pleural team on **07876138418** or imperial.pleural@nhs.net

Please go to your nearest A&E department if you:

- develop new chest pain
- experience new breathlessness and it is getting worse
- feel new light-headedness or dizziness

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3312 7777** (10.00 – 16.00, Monday to Friday). You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team:
imperial.communications@nhs.net

Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk

Department name: Respiratory Medicine
Published: May 2022
Review date: May 2025
Reference no: 2716
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