

Respiratory Medicine

After your local anaesthetic thoracoscopy

Information for patients, relatives and carers

This leaflet provides information about recovery from a local anaesthetic thoracoscopy. Please read this information carefully and if you have any questions, please contact your clinical team on 07876138418.

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

What happens after a local anaesthetic thoracoscopy?

You had a local anaesthetic thoracoscopy (LAT) of your RIGHT / LEFT side at St Mary's

Hospital on: _____

This is generally a very safe and well-tolerated procedure. The information below explains what to expect after the procedure.

- You may have some mild pain around where the camera entered the pleural space (the lining of the lung). The pain should go within a few days, but you may wish to take paracetamol for the pain.
- You have also had some fluid removed (aspirated) from around your lung. Your breathing may improve after this if we have drained a significant amount of (over 500mls). But, temporarily, sometimes people experience more difficulty breathing with a troublesome cough. This is usually the result of the lung re-inflating as expected, and it should stop within 24 hours.
- The risk of getting an infection from the procedure is very small. But if you become unwell with fevers, breathlessness and lethargy (extreme tiredness) in the days or weeks following the procedure, you are advised to see your doctor or contact the pleural team on 07876138418 or imperial.pleural@nhs.net (Monday to Friday between 09.00 and 17.00).

Washing

A small dressing will have been applied to the needle entry site and this can be removed after 48 hours. You are advised to keep the area of the dressing dry until it can be taken off. We will arrange to see you and remove the stitches in 7-10 days on:

How to contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the pleural team on **07876138418** or imperial.pleural@nhs.net. The phone number and email will be manned between Monday to Friday between 09.00 and 17.00. If you contact us outside those hours, we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

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

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