



Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiogram (PTC) with biliary stent: aftercare

You have had a PTC and biliary stent insertion to relieve the blockage in your biliary system that is causing your yellow discolouration, possibly itchiness and/or infection.

This was performed by Dr _____

Date and time: _____

What to expect afterwards:

- We will observe you for 30-60 minutes in the recovery area before sending you back to the ward for further care over the next few days.
- Rest, take it easy and avoid strenuous activity for the next 24-48 hours.
- You may have pain, bruising and discomfort near/around the incision site. This should improve over the next 24-48 hours. Please ask the nursing staff for painkillers while in hospital.
- Slight oozing from your wound site is normal, if you see fresh blood or bleeding put pressure on it immediately and inform the nursing staff.
- You will usually have a drain coming out from your upper abdomen connected to a bag filling with a green liquid called bile for a few days at least. You will then come back to the Radiology Department where we will check that the stent is working well before we remove your drainage bag. Your yellow discolouration will often slowly improve if the blockage is successfully relieved.
- Sometimes, we do not insert the stent during the first procedure and only use a drain. The doctor who performs your procedure will discuss this with you afterwards. In this situation, we will usually wait a few days before putting a stent. The drain alone will be effective at temporarily relieving the blockage.

How long will the drain stay in place?

This can vary from a few days to several weeks. It depends on how well the blockage is relieved and various other factors. These include whether your case needs to be discussed at a regional multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting, if there is evidence of infection (then the drain will be left in place whilst this is treated), or whether other stents or drains need to be placed. You will usually remain in hospital while these decisions are being made.

Can I shower or bath normally?

The drain site needs to be kept dry so showering and bathing has to be limited. The nurses on the ward can advise you further on how to cleanse the area.

Will the drain be painful?

Usually the drain site is reasonably comfortable; however, some patients do experience pain particularly if there has been a small bile leak. Occasionally when the drain is removed a small amount of bile can leak from where the drain goes in to the liver. We do all we can to minimise this risk but it can be painful. Please ask the nurses on the ward for pain relief.

Further questions

If you have other queries about your care, it is best to discuss this with the doctors looking after you on the ward. Sometimes, decisions of what to do next are difficult and can take time, as they require discussion between multiple specialists.

Contact us

Radiology Day Case Unit on 0118 322 8368 (Monday-Friday 8.30am-5pm).

Out of hours, please attend Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Emergency Department or your nearest Emergency Department (A&E).

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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