

Percutaneous insertion of a nephroureterostomy tube

Radiology Department
Tel: 01271 311869

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio tape or computer disk, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please telephone the PALS desk on 01271 314090.

What is a Nephroureterostomy and why is it needed?

A nephroureterostomy is a tube which passes through the skin, into the kidney and then into the bladder or conduit to allow urine to drain when there is a blockage in the tube which drain your kidneys. The tube usually stays in for a few months or permanently depending on your medical condition. You may be able to pass urine in the usual way.

What does it involve?

The nephrostomy tube will be exchanged for a nephroureterostomy tube through your skin into the affected kidney and your bladder or conduit.

You will have a small needle inserted into your hand; this enables painkillers and a sedative to be given to you.

You will lie on the x-ray table, generally flat on your stomach. Your skin will be cleaned with antiseptic. Then a guide wire will be placed into the kidney and down the ureter through the nephrostomy. This enables the plastic nephroureterostomy catheter to be positioned correctly. The catheter will be capped off or attached to a drainage bag.

The procedure will normally take 30 minutes or so but, it may take a little longer.

What are the alternatives?

An internal stent which requires a general anesthetic to change it or a nephrostomy which always drains into a bag and has an increased chance of falling out.

Special preparations

You will need to have some routine blood tests done.

You will be nil-by-mouth (nothing to eat or drink) prior to the procedure for approximately four hours, and you will be given an antibiotic to prevent infection one hour before the procedure will be performed in the x-ray department.

The radiologist will explain the reason why you need a nephroureterostomy tube and will ask you to sign a consent form.

You will need to wear a theatre gown to allow easy access to the insertion site.

What happens after the procedure?

The nurses will perform some routine observations of your pulse, temperature and blood pressure. Initially this is in the Radiology recovery but may be on a different ward later.

You should avoid making sudden movements once you are mobile, to ensure that the tube does not get pulled or become displaced.

What are the risks?

As with any procedure, there are some risks and complications that can arise.

The biggest problem is being unable to place the drainage tube in the kidney. If this happens, you will need a nephrostomy (a tube in the kidney draining into a bag).

Occasionally there may be some minor bleeding from the kidney which is visible in the drainage bag or an infection in the kidney. This can be treated with antibiotics.

Aftercare

The drainage tube will remain in place for an appropriate length of time which will be determined by your urologist.

Ensure you wash your hands before and after caring for the tube.

Keep the skin around the nephroureterostomy tube clean and, to prevent infection, place a sterile dressing around the site where the tube leaves your skin. Dressings should be changed weekly, especially if they get wet. In most instances the district nurse will perform this task and be responsible for changing the dressing.

You may shower 48 hours after the tube has been inserted but try to keep the tube site itself dry. You can protect the skin with plastic wrap during showering. After 14 days, you may shower without any protection for the tube.

Swimming is not recommended while the tube is in place.

Driving after surgery

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fit to drive following surgery. You do not normally need to notify the DVLA unless you have a medical condition that will last for longer than three months after your surgery and may affect your ability to drive. You should, however, check with your insurance company before returning to driving. Your doctors will be happy to provide you with advice on request.

What else should I look out for?

If you experience a high temperature, back pain or redness around the tube, you should contact your doctor immediately. If you experience leakage of urine around the tube,

attach a drainage bag. Call Radiology on **01271 311869** the next working day and we will arrange to change the tube as it may be blocked.

The appendix on the back of this information sheet gives some simple steps which your doctor or nurse can go through to try and correct some of these problems. If they are unable to do this, then you will need to be seen by the on-call urology team.

Further information

If your tube needs to be removed at any stage, this must be performed in hospital and you should contact your urologist.

The radiology nurse contact number between 8am-5.00pm on Monday-Friday is **01271 311869**.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or e-mail ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

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