

Paracentesis

What do I need to know about Paracentesis?

Paracentesis is a procedure used to remove fluid from the abdomen. You may hear the word ascites used for the build up of fluid. This build up of fluid may be caused by a variety of problems, such as:

- an infection,
- liver disease, or
- other diseases such as cancer.

The fluid is removed with a needle inserted through the wall of your abdomen. The fluid removed may be sent to the lab to help determine the cause of the problem.

This procedure may also be done to:

- relieve pressure,
- lessen pain, or
- to make your breathing easier.

Where will I go and what do I need to bring with me?

If you are scheduled at Saint Francis Hospital

1. Arrive at 6161 South Yale Ave. in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
2. Park and enter at the South Entrance.
3. Follow the signs to the Radiology window.

If you are scheduled at Saint Francis Hospital South

1. Arrive at 10501 East 91st Street South in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
2. Park and enter through the main hospital entrance and check in at the Concierge desk.

If you are scheduled at Saint Francis Cancer Center

1. Arrive at 11212 E. 48th Street (North and West of 51st and Garnett).
2. Park and check in on the 1st floor.

Remember to:

- Check in 30 minutes before your appointment time.
- Bring a list of all your current medicines to your appointment.

How do I prepare for the paracentesis?

Do not

- **Do not eat or drink anything, INCLUDING clear liquids, 1 hour before your scheduled procedure time** (no food, gum, juice, cola, tea, alcohol, smoking, or caffeine.)
- **Do Not Take these medicines for 5 days** before your scheduled appointment.
 - Prasugrel (Effient)
 - Warfarin (Coumadin)
 - Clopidogrel (Plavix)
- **Do Not Take Dabigatran Etexilate (Pradaxa) for 1 day** before your scheduled appointment.
- **Do Not Take Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) for 1 day** before your scheduled appointment.
- If you are taking **Lovenox injections twice a day, do not take your doses the evening before and the morning of your procedure.**
- If you are taking **Lovenox injection once a day, hold your dose the morning of your procedure.**

Do

- **Do** take your routine medicines, unless your doctor told you not to. Be sure to not take any medicines listed above.
- If you are a diabetic taking insulin, take 1/2 of your regular dose of insulin with a clear liquid breakfast. Do check with your regular doctor.
- Do attempt to call 24 hours in advance if you need to reschedule your test.
- Do arrive thirty minutes early. Early arrival is needed to complete your
 - lab work
 - medical history
 - physical exam by the Radiologist or the Physician's Assistant (PA)

Although you will be given a scheduled appointment, it is possible that you may be taken earlier or later for your actual test.

What should I expect during the procedure?

- You will be asked to lie on a stretcher with your head elevated during the procedure.
- During the procedure, your abdomen will be prepped. This is done to clean the area the needle goes in.
- A medicine may be used to numb the skin and tissue where the fluid will be removed.
- A needle will be inserted in the numbed areas, and the fluid removed.
- The fluid removed may be sent to the lab.
- You will be monitored for a period of time following the procedure.
- Expect the procedure to take about 1 hour.

When will I know the results of the procedure?

Your study will be reviewed by an imaging physician specialist. The results will be sent to your ordering doctor. Your doctor will:

- discuss these results with you and
- explain what the results mean in relation to your health.

This information is not meant to replace the advice of your Healthcare Professional.
Be sure to ask questions and discuss your medical condition or any medical treatments with your doctor.