About Your Drainage Catheter
with a Uresil Disk

This information will help you prepare to have your drainage catheter with a Uresil® disk placed at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) and teach you how to care for it at home.

About Your Drainage Catheter

The purpose of a drainage catheter is to drain a collection of fluid in your body. When this fluid is infected, it is called an abscess. An abscess may cause fever, pain, or abnormal blood tests. If the fluid is not infected, you may or may not have symptoms.

A drainage catheter is inserted through the skin and into the area where fluid has collected. The catheter will be secured to your body with a disk. Fluid will drain from the catheter into a small bag. Your catheter will be removed when the fluid and infection is gone.

Having Your Drainage Catheter Inserted

Your drainage catheter will be inserted by an interventional radiologist. An interventional radiologist is a doctor who specializes in image-guided procedures.

The procedure usually takes less than 1 hour. Your interventional radiologist will explain the procedure to you and give you time to ask any questions before you sign a consent form.

After the procedure, your catheter will be attached to a bag to collect the drainage. Your doctor will give you an idea of how much drainage you should expect.
Often, drainage catheters are placed urgently when you are sick. In some cases, though, you will be scheduled to come into the hospital for the procedure. If this is the case, follow the guidelines below.

Before Your Procedure

Ask about your medications

You may need to stop taking some of your medications before your procedure. Talk with your doctor about which medications are safe for you to stop. We have included some common examples below.

If you take medication that affects the way your blood clots, ask the doctor performing your procedure what to do. The doctor’s contact information is listed at the end of this resource. Some examples of these medications are:

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<td>apixaban (Eliquis®)</td>
<td>dalteparin (Fragmin®)</td>
<td>meloxicam (Mobic®)</td>
<td>ticagrelor (Brilinta®)</td>
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<td>aspirin</td>
<td>dipyridamole (Persantine®)</td>
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<td>heparin (subcutaneous shot)</td>
<td>sulfasalazine (Azulfidine®, Sulfazine®)</td>
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Your doctor may or may not tell you to stop taking the medication, depending on the reason you are taking it. **Do not stop taking any of these medications without talking with your doctor.**

Please review the information in the resource *Common Medications Containing Aspirin and Other Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)*. It includes important information about medications you’ll need to avoid before your procedure and what medications you can take instead.
If you take insulin or other medications for diabetes, you may need to change the dose before your procedure. Ask the doctor who prescribes your diabetes medication what you should do the morning of your procedure.

If you take any diuretics (medications that make you urinate more often), you may need to stop taking them the day of your procedure. Some examples are furosemide (Lasix®) or hydrochlorothiazide. Speak with your doctor.

**Arrange for someone to take you home**

You must have a responsible care partner take you home after your procedure. Make sure to plan this before the day of your procedure.

If you don’t have someone to take you home, call one of the agencies below. They will send someone to go home with you. There’s usually a charge for this service, and you will need to provide transportation.

**Agencies in New York**  
Partners in Care: 888-735-8913  
Caring People: 877-227-4649

**Agencies in New Jersey**  
Caring People: 877-227-4649

**Tell us if you’re sick**

If you develop any illness (fever, cold, sore throat, or flu) before your procedure, please call a nurse in Interventional Radiology at 212-639-2236. A nurse is available Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. After 5:00 PM, during the weekend, and on holidays, call 212-639-2000 and ask for the Interventional Radiology fellow on call.

**Note the time of your appointment**

A staff member from Interventional Radiology will call you 2 business days before your procedure. They will tell you what time you should arrive at the hospital for your procedure. If your procedure is scheduled on a Monday, you will be called on the Thursday before. If you don’t receive a call by 12:00 PM on the business day before your procedure, please call 212-639-5051.

If you need to cancel your procedure for any reason, please call the doctor who scheduled it for you.
Instructions for eating and drinking before your procedure

- Do not eat anything after midnight the night before your procedure. This includes hard candy and gum.
- Between midnight and up until 2 hours before your scheduled arrival time, you may drink a total of 12 ounces of water (see figure).
- Starting 2 hours before your scheduled arrival time, do not eat or drink anything. This includes water.

The Day of Your Procedure

Things to remember

- Take only the medications your doctor told you to take the morning of your procedure. Take them with a few sips of water.
- Do not apply cream or petroleum jelly (Vaseline®). You can use deodorant and light moisturizers. Do not wear eye makeup.
- Remove any jewelry, including body piercings.
- Leave all valuables, such as credit cards and jewelry, at home.
- If you wear contact lenses, wear your glasses instead, if possible. If you don’t have glasses, please bring a case for your contacts.

What to bring with you

- A list of the medications you take at home
- Medications for breathing problems (such as inhalers), medications for chest pain, or both
- A case for your glasses or contacts
- Your Health Care Proxy form, if you have completed one
- If you use a CPAP or BiPAP machine to sleep at night, please bring your machine with you, if possible. If you can’t bring your machine with you, we will give you one to use while you are in the hospital.

Where to go

- **Memorial Hospital**
  1275 York Avenue (between East 67th and East 68th Streets), New York, NY 10065

  Parking at MSK is available in the garage on East 66th Street between First and York Avenues. To reach the garage, enter East 66th Street from York Avenue. The garage is located about a quarter of a block toward First Avenue, on the right (north) side of the street. A pedestrian tunnel connects the garage to the hospital. For questions about pricing, call 212-639-2338. There are also nearby commercial garages on East 69th Street between First and Second Avenues and on East 65th Street between First and Second Avenues.

  When you arrive at Memorial Hospital, take the M elevator to the 2nd floor. Enter through the glass doors and check in at the desk.

- **Memorial Sloan Kettering Westchester**
  500 Westchester Avenue, West Harrison, NY 10604

  When you enter the building, check in at the reception desk and they will direct you to Interventional Radiology

What to expect

Once you arrive at the hospital, doctors, nurses, and other staff members will ask you to state and spell your name and date of birth many times. This is for your safety. People with the same or similar names may be having procedures on the same day.

You will meet the doctor who will place the catheter. They will explain the procedure and ask you to sign a consent form.

You will be brought into the procedure room. If you don’t have an intravenous (IV) line, your nurse will put one in. You will receive medication through your IV
to make you feel drowsy.

The area where the catheter is inserted will be numbed with an injection of anesthetic. Your doctor will use fluoroscopy (real time x-rays), a computed tomography (CT) scan, or ultrasound to help place the catheter.

After your drainage catheter is inserted, a silicone disk will be placed on the catheter (see Figure 2) to secure it your skin. This disk is attached to your skin with an adhesive dressing.

**After Your Procedure**

After your procedure, you will be brought to the recovery room. You will need to stay in bed until the sedation has worn off. You will then return to your hospital room or go home with your caregiver.

**About your catheter**

You will have a black mark on the catheter above the disk (see Figure 1). Your nurse will show it to you. This mark should always be the same distance from the top of the disk. If it changes, this means that the catheter has moved. You must call Interventional Radiology so someone there can check it.

The external end of the catheter will be attached to a 3-way stop-cock (see Figure 2). It is called a 3-way stopcock because it has 3 points of attachment and a tap that can be turned to control the flow. The drainage bag will be connected to the attachment point opposite to the catheter. The third attachment point has a protective cover on it, through which you can inject fluids. The cover is called a needleless connector.
The drainage bag can be attached to your clothes with a safety pin or secured to your leg with Velcro® straps. The bottom of the bag has a blue twist cap, which you will use to drain the bag.

CathGrip® is a device that helps to make sure your catheter does not come out of your body, in case you accidentally pull on it.

**Showering**

You may take showers but you will need to keep your dressing dry. A hand-held shower can help direct the water away from the dressing. You will also need to cover your dressing. If the dressing gets wet, you will need to change it. Wet dressings are a common cause of skin problems.

Before you shower, remove the belt and empty the drainage bag. Tape the drainage bag to your body near the catheter or use a strap to attach it to your waist. Tape plastic wrap or a gallon sized bag over the dressing to keep it dry.

You can also use AquaGuard, which is a one-time use waterproof cover to protect your dressing. When you shower, make sure that that your catheter is covered to prevent it from getting wet.

**Applying the AquaGuard**

1. The edges of the AquaGuard have peelable tape. Fold over a corner of each side of the tape (see Figure 3).
2. Hold the AquaGuard with the arrows pointing towards your head. Peel off the top strip and place the top edge of the AquaGuard above the dressing. Smooth it down.

3. Then grab a folded corner and peel down one side, smoothing as you go.

4. Do the bottom and remaining side the same way.

Don’t let the tape on the AquaGuard touch the dressing. It can lift your dressing when you remove the AquaGuard after showering.

**Caring for Your Drainage Catheter with a Uresil Disk**

Your nurse will teach you how to care for your catheter. Use this resource at home to remind you of what you learned. At first, a visiting nurse will come to your home to help you care for the catheter. It won’t be long before you feel confident doing it yourself.

Every day you will:

- Inspect the catheter.
- Flush your catheter with normal saline.
- Empty drainage from the bag.
• Record the amount of drainage.

Your dressing and drainage bag will need to be changed once a week. You will also need to change the dressing if it becomes loose, wet, or soiled. If a wet dressing is left against your skin, it may cause your skin to become irritated and sore.

You may need someone to help you change the dressing and drainage equipment. You will be able to inspect the catheter and flush it with the normal saline yourself.

**Inspecting your drainage catheter with a Uresil disk**
You must inspect your catheter every day. You can use a hand-held mirror to do this.

1. Find the black mark to make sure it is in the correct position.
2. Check the dressing to make sure that it is secure. If the dressing is wet, soiled, has come loose or started to pull away from the skin, it needs to be changed.
3. Examine your skin around the catheter when you are changing the dressing to see that it is in good condition. There should be no redness, areas of broken skin, or rash. Fluid should not leak around the catheter.
4. Look at the fluid in the bag. It should be flowing freely into the bag. There should be no change in the way it looks.
5. Inspect the catheter and the drainage bag for kinks in the tubing.

If you see a problem, finish your catheter care. Then call the nurse or fellow. The contact information is at the end of this resource.

**Flushing your drainage catheter with a Uresil disk**
You will need to flush your catheter with normal saline twice a day. Your doctor will tell you whether to use 3 mL, 5 mL, or 10 mL.

Below is a video that shows how to flush a biliary catheter. Follow the same directions to flush your drainage catheter with a Uresil disk.
1. Gather your supplies. You will need:
   - 1 (10 mL) prefilled normal saline syringe
   - 2 alcohol wipes

2. Wash your hands thoroughly with warm water and soap or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.

3. Take the syringe out of the wrapper. Remove the cap from the syringe using a twisting motion. With the cap off, remove the air from the syringe by holding the syringe open-side up and pushing the plunger slowly until the normal saline is at the top. If your doctor instructed you to flush with less than 10 mL, squirt the extra saline out before you connect the syringe. Lay the syringe on the table. Do not allow the tip of the syringe to touch anything.

4. Sit or lie comfortably. Turn the stopcock toward the drainage bag (see Figure 3).

5. Clean the needleless connector on the stopcock with an alcohol wipe for 15 to 30 seconds, rubbing vigorously.

6. Place the syringe onto the needleless connector. Hold the connector while you push and turn the syringe clockwise (to the right) to lock it into position.

7. Push the plunger of the syringe to push 1/3 of the normal saline into the catheter, and then pause. Push in another 1/3 of the normal saline, and pause again. Push in the rest of the normal saline into the catheter. Never pull back on the plunger. Always push forward.
   - **If you have any of the following while flushing, do not try to put in any more saline. Stop and call your doctor’s office if you:**
     - Feel pain
     - Feel resistance
     - See leaking around the catheter

8. When the syringe is empty, turn it counterclockwise (to the left) to remove it.
You can throw it away in your regular trash. Turn the stopcock back to the direction of the needleless connector. You will probably see fluid drain into the bag.

**Emptying the collected drainage from the bag**

You will need to measure and empty the drainage twice a day or more often if necessary.

1. Gather your supplies. You will need:
   - The measuring container you received in the hospital
   - Non-sterile gloves
   - 2 alcohol wipes

2. Wash your hands thoroughly with warm water and soap or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.


4. Clean the cap at the bottom of the drainage bag with an alcohol wipe.

5. Twist the cap open while holding it over the measuring container.

6. Allow the fluid to drain into the container. Do not let the bottom of the bag touch the sides of the drainage container.

7. When all fluid has drained out of the bag, twist the cap closed.

8. Clean the cap with an alcohol wipe.

9. Measure the amount of fluid in the container, then flush the fluid down the toilet.

10. Wash the measuring container with soap and water. Allow it to air dry.

11. Throw out your gloves and clean your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

12. Record the amount of drainage on the form at the end of this resource. Be sure to subtract the amount of your saline flush (3 mL, 5 mL, or 10 mL) from the daily totals.

**Changing your Uresil dressing**

The Uresil dressing system is designed to help keep your catheter from moving
out of your bile ducts. The disk is attached to your drainage catheter. The
dressing covers the disk, which keeps the catheter in place.

The dressing, stopcock, and drainage system will need to be changed once a
week. If the dressing gets wet, soiled, loose, or pulls away from your skin,
change it. Although you may need the assistance of your helper to do the
dressing and equipment changes, you can assemble the equipment yourself.

Below is a video demonstrating how to change your Uresil dressing.

Please visit www.mskcc.org/pe/uresil_dressing to watch this video.

1. Gather your supplies:
   - 1 Uresil adhesive dressing
   - 3M™ No Sting Barrier Film
   - Adhesive remover wipe
   - Alcohol wipes
   - Gauze
   - Mild soap and a cup of water
   - Non-sterile gloves
   - 1 (2 inch x 2 inch) Telfa
   - Scissors
   - CathGrip kit, if changing the CathGrip
   - Waste basket

2. Wash your hands with warm water and soap or use an alcohol based hand
   sanitizer.

3. Clean your scissors with an alcohol pad. If your Telfa is larger than 2 inches
   by 2 inches, you will need to cut it to that size. Cut a slit in that piece (see
   Figure 4) and set it to the side.
4. Sit or lie comfortably. At this point, you will need someone to help you. The person doing the dressing change should follow the instructions below.

5. Wash their hands and put on nonsterile gloves.

6. Put the drainage bag in a place where it will not fall.

7. Hold the silicone disk in place using 1 finger to prevent tension or pulling on the catheter. Locate the slit in the Uresil dressing. From this spot, slowly and gently peel the adhesive away from the skin while holding the disk. If the skin around the catheter is sensitive, wipe adhesive remover around the edge of the dressing to minimize discomfort.

8. Release the catheter from the straps on the CathGrip. Make sure the drainage bag is somewhere that it can’t fall. If you will be changing the CathGrip, use adhesive remover to release it from your skin and throw it away.

9. Throw out the old Uresil dressing.

10. Use a gauze pad moistened with soap and water to clean the skin around and under the silicone disk. Using the same gauze, clean the top and bottom sides of the silicone disk itself. Always hold one side of the disk firmly on the skin while cleaning under the other side.

11. Rinse and dry the skin and the silicone disk with fresh gauze.

12. Wipe the top side of the silicone disk with an alcohol wipe. This removes any soap residue.

13. Look at the disk nipple. The black ink mark should be just above the disk nipple (see Figure 1). If it moved, finish changing the dressing, and then call your doctor’s office.

14. Inspect the insertion site under the silicone disk. Always hold one side of the disk firmly on the skin while tilting up the other side. If you see any of the
following, finish changing the dressing and call your doctor’s office:

- Redness
- Swelling
- Foul-smelling drainage
- Leakage of fluid

- You may notice new tissue growing around the insertion site. This is harmless, but it can be removed by your doctor if it is painful.

15. Apply the 3M™ No Sting Barrier Film to the skin around and under the silicone disk. Then apply more to the top of the disk where the dressing will be placed. This protects your skin and helps the adhesive stick better.

16. Slide the Telfa under the disk, around the catheter (see Figure 5). The slit should point towards the patient’s feet. The Telfa will prevent moisture from building up under the disk.

17. Pick up the Uresil dressing. Open the slit and place it around the catheter (see Figure 6). Line the slit up with the slit in the Telfa. Make sure the dressing is adhesive side down, shiny side up. Place the dressing over the flat part of the disk, but under the disk’s nipple. The slit in the dressing should point towards the patient’s feet.
18. The Uresil dressing has 3 pieces of backing. Start at the corner of the biggest piece and slowly peel the backing away. As you peel away the paper, press the adhesive to the skin. This will get easier with practice. If the dressing does not stick properly, remove the Uresil dressing and Telfa and restart at step 15.

19. Remove the other 2 pieces of backing paper 1 at a time. Press the adhesive to the skin. Overlap the slit edges of the dressing to make the dressing more secure.

20. If you’re changing the leg drainage bag or the CathGrip, follow the instructions in the sections below. If you are only changing the dressing right now, reattach the catheter to the CathGrip.
   - To do this, place your catheter on the device straps
   - There are 2 straps, one with holes and one with jagged edges. The strap with the holes has 2 openings. Insert the strap with the jagged edges end into the lower opening of the other strap.
   - Pull to secure (see Figure 7).
21. Remove your gloves and throw them out in the wastebasket.

22. Write date of dressing change on the Uresil dressing so that you know when to change it again.

23. Wash your hands with warm water and soap or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.

Changing the stopcock and drainage equipment

Below is a video that shows how to change the equipment on a biliary catheter. Follow the same directions to change the equipment on your drainage catheter with a Uresil disk.

Please visit [www.mskcc.org/pe/change_biliary](http://www.mskcc.org/pe/change_biliary) to watch this video.

1. Gather your equipment:
   - Nonsterile gloves
   - 1 needleless connector
   - 1 sterile 3-way stopcock
   - 1 drainage bag
   - 1 Cathgrip kit
1. Safety pin or strap  
2. Gauze  
3. 1-inch Micropore® paper tape  
4. Waste basket

2. Wash your hands thoroughly with warm water and soap or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.

3. Open the packages containing the needleless connector, 3-way stopcock, and drainage bag. Put the package with the drainage bag to one side.

4. Remove the protective cover from the base of the needleless connector and throw it away. Attach the needleless connector to center port of the stopcock (see Figure 2). Put the stopcock down.

5. Remove the drainage bag from the package. Connect the tubing from the drainage bag to the stopcock with a twisting motion. Close the drainage port on the bottom of the bag by turning it clockwise. Closing the port prevents leaking.

6. Place the assembled drainage bag back in its package. This will keep it clean until you are ready to connect it to the catheter.

7. Wash your hands again, then put on the non-sterile gloves.

8. If you have not done so, release the catheter from the straps on the CathGrip. Make sure the drainage bag is somewhere that it can't fall.

9. If the bag is attached with a safety pin, remove the safety pin. Make sure the new drainage bag is within your reach.

10. While holding gauze under the connector, twist off the old stopcock and drainage system from the catheter and throw it away. Quickly attach the new stopcock and drainage system.

11. Make sure the off tap of the stopcock is turned in the direction of the needleless connector.

12. Select a position for the CathGrip. The CathGrip and drainage bag tubing should be lower than the catheter insertion site in order for it to drain. Make sure it's lower both when you are standing and laying down. When the catheter is attached there should be no pull or tension on the catheter. There should be a gentle bowing of the catheter.
13. Rest the tubing on the side of your abdomen on the selected site.

14. Inspect the site where the CathGrip will be placed. Make sure you select an area that’s not red or irritated. Trim any long hairs at the site with scissors or hair trimmer. Avoid using a razor.

15. Open CathGrip package.

16. Clean the site with the alcohol wipe from the kit. This will remove oils and products, such as lotion or soap, from your skin. Allow alcohol to dry completely.

17. Wipe the site with the BioPlus+ Skin Prep, which is included in the kit.

18. Allow area to dry to touch. This takes about 15 seconds.

19. Remove the paper on the back of the CathGrip one side at a time (see Figure 7). Apply to skin in the desired location. Repeat with the other side.

20. Gently press the CathGrip to the skin for 5 seconds to seal it to the skin.

21. Place your catheter on the device straps. There are 2 straps, one with holes and one with jagged edges. The strap with the holes has 2 openings. Insert the strap with the jagged edges end into the lower opening of the other strap. Pull to secure (see Figure 8).

22. Make sure that there is no pull or tension on the catheter. If you notice any tension or pull, change the position of the catheter in the CathGrip.

23. Secure the drainage bag with the strap or with a safety pin. You can attach
the bag to the waistband of your clothing with the safety pin or to your leg with the attached Velcro straps. The bag should be below the level of the catheter. That allows the catheter to drain by gravity (see Figure 9).

Figure 9. Drainage bag below the catheter

24. Check to see that the catheter is draining into the new tubing.

25. When you have finished, remove your gloves and wash your hands.

**Activities While You Have Your Drainage Catheter with a Uresil Disk**

- You can go to work and exercise with your catheter in place. Avoid movements that involve stretching from side to side or continual bending. These could dislodge the catheter.

- Do not swim, take a bath, or submerge your catheter in water. Speak with your doctor in Interventional Radiology if you have a vacation planned so that we can teach you what to do in this situation.

- Keep the tubing secured to your body with a CathGrip at all times.

- When you are getting dressed, be sure not to tug on the catheter. Do not allow the tubing to become kinked by clothing such as pantyhose or a belt. Try not to lie on your catheter when you sleep. This will prevent kinking of
the catheter. Clothing can usually cover the catheter.

Call Your Nurse or Doctor in Interventional Radiology if:

- There is no drainage from your catheter or if the amount of drainage is much less than usual.
- The drainage looks bloody.
- There is leakage around the insertion site.
- You cannot flush the catheter or it leaks when it is flushed.
- The location of the black mark has changed.
- There is no longer drainage from the catheter when the 3-way stopcock is in the upright position.
- The clamp has broken or opened.
- There is a kink in the tube that you cannot straighten out, causing a blockage.
- You have pain, tenderness, or swelling at the catheter site.
- Your skin around the catheter looks red, irritated, or different from the way it normally looks.
- You have a temperature of 100.4°F (38°C)
- You have any concerns about your catheter.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Interventional Radiology at 212-639-2236. You can reach a staff member Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. After 5:00 PM, during the weekend, and on holidays, please call 212-639-2000 and ask for the doctor on call for Interventional Radiology.

Ordering Information

Your nurse will give you enough supplies when you go home to last for 2 weeks. In most cases, the visiting nurse service will order your supplies after that.
If you want to order supplies yourself, call Interventional Radiology at 212-639-2236 to place your order using the supply order numbers below. You can pick up your order 2 business days later at the IR Clinic, located at 16 East 60\textsuperscript{th} Streets, between Fifth and Madison Avenues

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<td>CathGrip (each)</td>
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<td>Telfa (1 each)</td>
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<td>Drainage bag (1 each)</td>
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Prefilled syringes

You will need a prescription for prefilled normal saline syringes. You can get the prescription from the IR clinic. If your local pharmacy does not have the syringes, you can get them from the outpatient pharmacy at Memorial Hospital at 1275 York Avenue, between East 67th and East 68th Streets. It is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:45 PM. To reach the pharmacy, call 646-888-0730.

Drainage Record

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For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

About Your Drainage Catheter with a Uresil Disk - Last updated on March 28, 2019
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