



Information for You from Your Health Care Team

Discharge Instructions for Biliary Tube or T-Tube Care

Gallstones can lodge not only in the gallbladder but also in any of the ducts leading into or out of the gallbladder. During your surgery, your doctor removed whatever stones they found in the common bile duct. Your doctor then inserted a tube in the duct to drain off excess bile so it would not leak into the abdominal cavity. You will go home for about 4 to 6 weeks with this tube in place. The following are instructions for biliary tube care:

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Take off the old dressing and discard.
3. Look at the site for redness, swelling or drainage.
4. Make a mixture of half hydrogen peroxide and half saline. Dampen a gauze with this mixture and wash the drain site with the gauze in an outward circular motion.
5. Cover the drain site with a 4x4 gauze and tape the gauze to your abdomen. Change the dressing everyday for the first seven days and then every 3 days until the drain is removed.

Drainage Bag Care:

- Hang the bag lower than the incision to help with drainage.
- Empty the drainage bag through the spout at the bottom of the bag – do not disconnect at the end of the tube as this could lead to infection.
- Empty the drainage bag at the same time each day or when it is half full. Record the amount and note the color each time you empty the bag.

Call your doctor if you note any of the following changes as this may mean a problem with the tube or infection:

- Redness, swelling or pain at the incision site.
- Yellow or green drainage at the incision site.
- Firmness or warmth at the incision site.
- You have a temperature over 101 degrees F.
- You have nausea, vomiting or clay colored stool.
- There is little or no bile draining in the bag.
- You have stitches and they become loose or cut.
- Your tube has become dislodged or broken.
- Your tube begins to leak bile at the incision site.
- There is blood in or around your tube.