



Home Care of Biliary Catheter

Dressing Changes

1. Wash hands. Remove old dressing.
2. Gently cleanse the area where the catheter goes through the skin with half strength peroxide and a Q-tip.
3. Rinse with saline and a Q-tip.
4. Dry the area.
5. Cover with new gauze pad(s) and secure with tape.
6. Change the dressing daily, or if it becomes wet.
7. When showering or bathing, keep the area out of the water as much as possible.
8. Be sure to apply a new dressing after drying the area. A hair/blow dryer may help.

Flushing the Catheter

1. Flush the catheter with 10cc of saline once per day.
2. Push the syringe plunger as fast as you can.

Important

1. Keep the catheter and its tubing securely taped in position so it does not pull back or out.
2. Be sure the catheter and tubing do not kink or catch on your clothing.
3. Make sure the drainage bag is secure and does not pull on the tubing.

4. Empty the bag before it becomes full and heavy.

Catheter Change

The catheter is changed routinely every 3 months or so. This is a short simple outpatient procedure. Please call 617-638-6642 to make an appointment

Problems

If at any time you should develop symptoms such as: chills or fever, pain or drainage around the catheter, or yellow jaundice.

OR

If bile stops draining or becomes bloody or very cloudy,

OR

If you have any problems caring for the catheter at home.

Please call the Interventional Radiology office at 617-638-6642 between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

After hours please call the Boston Medical Center operator (617-638-8000) and ask to page the Interventional Radiologist on call.