



# Ascitic Tap

## What is an Ascitic Tap?

An Ascitic Tap is a procedure where a needle or tube is inserted through the skin to drain fluid from the abdomen.

Fluid may be drained for several reasons, including the diagnosis of a disease or improving comfort.

This is usually done under ultrasound guidance.

## What Happens During the Ascitic Tap?

- You will receive local anaesthetic to numb the area for the biopsy.
- A needle will be guided to where the fluid can be drained.
- A catheter (plastic tubing) will be inserted into the site to drain the fluid.
- The catheter will be left in place to allow the fluid to drain into a bag.

## Informed consent process and risks

You will be asked to sign a consent form, on the day of your procedure.

Below are some of the risks of the procedure, these will be discussed with you on the day of your procedure

- Infection
- Bleeding and bruising
- Damage to surrounding structures
- Incomplete drainage of fluid

## What Happens After The Ascitic Tap?

- Depending on how much fluid is in the abdomen, the drainage catheter may need to stay in place for several hours.
- You will be sent to the Day Procedure Unit to recover and you may require intravenous fluid infusion for fluid replacement.
- Once enough fluid has been drained from the abdomen, the tube is removed by a nurse.
- A small waterproof dressing will be applied to the area.
- Occasionally fluid may continue to leak out of the wound under the dressing. It is important to keep the wound clean and covered with a dressing until it is dry and no longer oozing fluid.

**It is anticipated that you will be discharged from hospital on the same day however there is always the chance that you may need to stay overnight.**

**Please make sure you have someone to drive you home after the procedure and stay with you overnight. It is important that you do not drive yourself.**

*You will receive some discharge information on the day of your procedure from the team, with instructions on how to look after the wound.*