

Percutaneous Nephrostomy

Thank you for choosing Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns or do not understand the information we give you. Always ask us to explain words or phrases you do not understand.

What is a Percutaneous Nephrostomy?

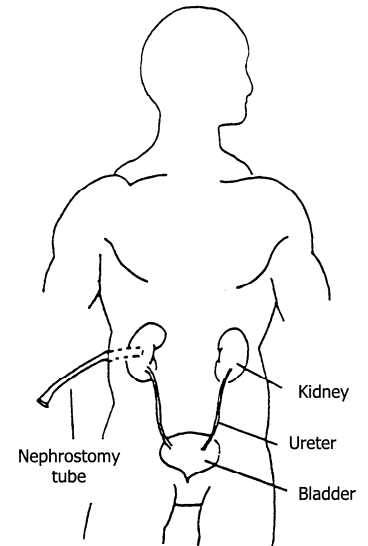
A percutaneous (per q TANE e us) nephrostomy (neh FROST o me) is done to place a small tube (catheter) in the kidney to drain urine into a bag.

Who Does This Procedure?

Specially trained doctors and staff put the tube into the kidney.

Why Do I Need A Nephrostomy?

As a rule, people need nephrostomies when urine cannot flow from the kidney to the bladder. Kidney stones and other conditions can block the urine flow. Your doctor will explain this in more detail.



How Are Nephrostomies Done?

A transporter will take you to x-ray. You will lie on your stomach on the x-ray table. The staff will check your blood pressure and pulse. A nurse will start an IV (needle in a vein) for fluids and medicines.

Someone will use a special soap and wash a small section on your lower back and side. We will put sterile covers over the washed area.

The radiology doctor will numb the skin. He or she will put a small needle into your kidney through the skin. X-ray contrast (dye) will be injected so the urinary system can be seen better on x-ray.

Your doctor will numb a second section so he or she can pass another needle into the kidney. He will pass a guidewire through this needle into the urinary system. The needle will be removed. The doctor will pass a catheter (tube) over the guidewire into the kidney and into the urinary system. When the catheter is in place, the doctor will remove the guidewire.



A part of the catheter is sutured, taped, or both to the skin and sterile bandages are put over the exit site.

Will It Hurt? Is It Safe?

You may have general anesthesia (be put to sleep) or an IV to relax you and relieve pain. Staff will check you very closely.

The procedure is safe when done by properly trained staff. It is not risk-free, however. Your doctor will explain the risks and benefits to you in detail.

How Do I Prepare for the Procedure?

Do not eat or drink six hours before the procedure.

What Do I Do After the Procedure?

We will attach the catheter to a bag to collect the urine. A nurse will teach you and your family how to take care of the catheter. Ask for a free copy of *Home Care for Your Drainage Tube*. Before you leave the hospital your doctor will review your activities to follow.

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This information is general. If your doctor tells you something different, follow his or her advice and instructions.

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