

Percutaneous Nephrostomy

WHAT IS A PERCUTANEOUS NEPHROSTOMY?

A nephrostomy is a therapeutic interventional procedure in which a small tube is placed into the kidney's collecting system to drain urine to an external bag. Tube placement is guided by x-ray fluoroscopy.

WHO DOES THE NEPHROSTOMY?

Trained interventional radiologists with the help of specially trained x-ray technologists and nurses place the tube into the kidney.

WHY DO I NEED A NEPHROSTOMY?

Nephrostomies are generally needed when a person has a blockage in the urinary system that prevents natural flow of the urine from the kidney to the bladder. Kidney stones and other conditions can cause these blockages to occur. Your referring physician will discuss your condition with you in detail.

HOW ARE NEPHROSTOMIES DONE?

You will be taken to an x-ray room where the x-ray staff will have you lie on your stomach on the x-ray table. The staff will set up monitoring of your vital signs and get an IV started in order to give you fluids and medicines. An area on your back and side will be washed with a cleansing soap and sterile covers will be placed around the prepped site. The radiologist will numb a small area on your back where he/she will place a small needle into the kidney. Once the needle is in the kidney, the radiologist can inject x-ray contrast that fills the collecting system. This is visualized by the use of fluoroscopy. A second area is then numbed so another needle can be passed into the kidney. Through this needle a guidewire is passed into the collecting system and that needle removed. A catheter is passed over the guidewire into the kidney and positioned into the collecting system. The guidewire is removed and the catheter secured to the skin and the site dressed with sterile bandages.

WILL IT HURT? IS IT SAFE?

Depending on your situation, the type of anesthesia used may be conscious sedation (medicine for pain relief and relaxing) through the IV or general anesthesia (being asleep) You will be monitored very closely by the staff in the room The procedure is safe when done by properly trained personnel. It is not risk free, however, and your physician and interventional radiologist will explain the risks and benefits to you in detail.

PREPARING FOR THE PROCEDURE

You will be given instructions by the referring staff concerning the time and place you should be in the hospital and also concerning dietary restrictions before the procedure.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE

The catheter is attached to a drainage bag to collect urine. You and your family will be instructed by the radiology nurses on the care of the catheter and nephrostomy site on your back. Your physician will discuss the results with you. Before you leave the hospital, your doctor will give you instructions about your activities.

The information on this Website is provided for general informational purposes only and **SHOULD NOT** be relied upon as a substitute for sound professional medical advice, evaluation or care from your physician or other qualified healthcare provider. If you have a medical problem or a health-related question, consult your physician or call Health On-Call at 336-716-2255 or 1-800-446-2255.

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