

What is a Biliary Drainage?

A biliary drainage is a therapeutic interventional procedure in which a small tube is placed into the bile drainage system in the liver to drain bile into an external bag. Tube placement is guided by fluoroscopy.

WHO DOES THIS PROCEDURE?

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

WHY DO I NEED AN EXTERNAL BILIARY DRAINAGE?

A biliary drainage is generally needed when a person has a blockage in the bile collecting system that prevents natural flow of the bile from the liver to the intestines. Gall stones, tumors and other conditions can cause these blockages to occur. Your referring physician will discuss your condition with you in detail.

HOW ARE BILIARY DRAINAGES DONE?

You will be taken to an x-ray room where the x-ray staff will have you lie on your back 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 front 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 front or side where he/she will place a small needle into the bile duct system of your liver. Once the needle is in the liver, the radiologist can inject x-ray contrast that fills the bile system. This is visualized by the use of fluoroscopy. Through this needle a guidewire is passed into the bile duct and the needle is then removed. A catheter is passed over the guidewire into the liver and positioned into the bile duct or the intestine. 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 bile. You and your family will be instructed by the radiology nurses on the care of the catheter and access site on your side. 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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Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, NC 27157
(336) 716-5053