

SUPRAPUBIC TUBE

Your suprapubic catheter is a soft tube placed by an Interventional Radiologist to help you empty your bladder. This tube will stay in until you are able to empty your bladder in the normal way. In some cases you will have the tube permanently.

SEDATION

- The sedation you received for your procedure is still in your system.
- You should take it easy the rest of the day. **DO NOT** drive and avoid drinking alcohol.

ACTIVITY

- You may resume your regular activity in 24 hours, unless you have been restricted for another reason.

CARE OF THE SUPRAPUBIC TUBE

- You may take the dressing off in two (2) days and take a shower. **Keep the water from directly pouring over the tube.**
- Wash your hands with antibacterial soap (Dial or Safeguard) and water.
- Take off the old bandage being careful not to pull on the tube.
- Put the bandage in a plastic bag and dispose of it in the wastebasket.
- Wash skin around the site of the catheter gently with antibacterial soap (Dial or Safeguard) and water.
- Apply a clean bandage being careful not to touch the side of the bandage that will be touching your skin.
- Tape the bandage to your skin.
- The drainage bag can be worn on your leg or pinned to your clothing.
- At night you can attach a bigger bag and attach to the side of your bed.
- Empty the bag into the toilet every 2 to 3 hours.

CARE AFTER THE PROCEDURE

- You may experience some discomfort after the procedure. This is normal.
- We encourage you to take over the counter medicines such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen, unless you are restricted from these medications.

WHEN TO CALL YOUR UROLOGIST

- Fever or chills.
- Urine stops draining into bag.
- Bleeding, redness, or swelling at the procedure site.
- If your Suprapubic Tube is to remain in longer than 6 weeks it will need to be changed. **Call your Urologist for an appointment.**

WHEN TO CALL INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

- If the tube falls out.

Call the Interventional Nurse Coordinators' line at **617-724-2239** between 8am and 5pm Monday through Friday. For emergencies in the **evening or weekend hours**, call the answering service at **617-726-1818**. Ask the operator to page the **Non-vascular Interventional Radiologist** on call.

Information developed in collaboration with MGH Department of Urology



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