



University Hospitals Birmingham
NHS Foundation Trust



Nephrostomy tube

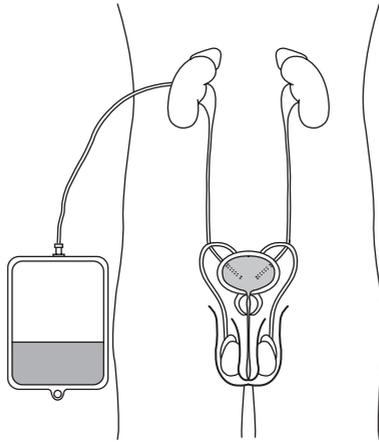
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www.uhb.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets.htm

This leaflet has been written to provide you with useful information regarding your nephrostomy tube. If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact the number at the end of this leaflet.

A nephrostomy tube is a tube that is inserted into the middle of the kidney through a puncture that is made through the skin of your back. It is then attached to a drainage bag. (see diagram)



Why do I need a Nephrostomy tube?

The main function of a nephrostomy tube is to enable the kidney to drain adequately. Sometimes kidneys can get blocked and this will then stop the urine from draining from the kidney into the bladder. Pressure can then build up in the kidney causing pain and more importantly, a malfunction of that kidney. If this is allowed to continue for a period of time the function of the kidney can be permanently affected.

The blockage of the kidney can be caused by numerous things such as:

- Stones in the kidney or ureters (tubes from the kidney)
- Tumours in the kidney, ureters or bladder.
- Trauma
- Injury

Whatever the cause it is important to improve the function of the

kidney before investigations and treatment can be carried out.

The nephrostomy tube is inserted in the x-ray department by a radiologist using local anaesthetic.

Once the nephrostomy tube is in place then the kidney can drain properly again. The nursing staff will be carefully monitoring the drainage from that kidney and will notify the doctor if there is any change.

What happens before the procedure?

- You will be advised whether you can eat and drink before hand
- Nurse will give you a treatment gown to wear
- You will usually have a needle inserted into the back of your hand in case you need any sedation or antibiotics during the procedure
- You will be asked to sign a consent form. Please feel able to ask any questions about the procedure
- When you get to x-ray the radiologist will make sure you understand what is going to happen

What happens after the procedure?

A nurse from the ward will collect you from x ray and take you back to the ward.

Your blood pressure and pulse will be recorded.

The drainage from your nephrostomy tube will be closely monitored.

The nurse will also want to measure any urine that you pass naturally.

It is normal to see blood in your urine, both from the nephrostomy tube and in any urine that you pass naturally.

When you are able the nursing staff will want you to drink plenty. This will help to clear any blood and also help prevent infection.

Because the kidney has been blocked and therefore not draining properly, bacteria can build up in the urine. This can cause an infection after the insertion of the tube.

Some patients may feel as if they have flu. Shivering, feeling hot and cold are common signs. If you experience any of these, then please tell one of the nursing staff immediately. You may require antibiotics and these may need to be given directly into a vein.

This information is not intended to frighten or alarm you but purely for you to be aware of what you might experience.

When can I go home?

This depends on further investigations to try and find out what has caused the blockage.

Patients are sometimes discharged with nephrostomy tubes in place. If this is the case, the nurse will show you and your family how to care for your tube and arrange a district nurse to visit you.



The Trust provides free monthly health talks on a variety of medical conditions and treatments. For more information visit www.uhb.nhs.uk or call 0121 627 7803

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Please contact your specialist nurse for further advice.