

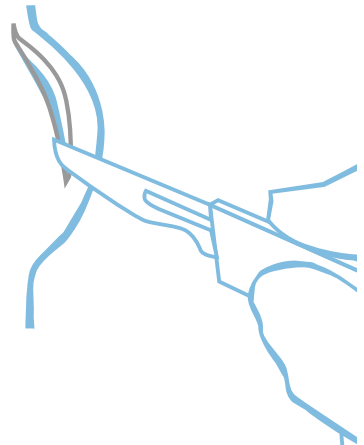
Facial Surgery Center Information Packet

Abscess Incision and Drainage

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Facial Surgery
Center



What you should know

An abscess incision and drainage is a procedure to cut open the skin and drain pus from the abscess. An abscess is a collection of pus in a warm, red, tender and swollen lesion (wound). It is most commonly caused by bacteria. An abscess may occur anywhere in or on the body, including the skin, or in areas near abscessed teeth.

During an abscess incision and drainage, pus that is collected from the abscess may be sent to a lab for tests. A culture or examination of the pus may help your caregiver know what kind of bacteria is causing the infection. A culture will also help your caregiver know what medicines to give you to kill the bacteria.

Care agreement

You have the right to help plan your care. To help with this plan, you must learn about your health condition and how it may be treated. You can then discuss treatment options with your caregivers. Work with them to decide what care may be used to treat you. You always have the right to refuse treatment.

Risks

Having an incision and drainage may be very painful and put you at risk of bleeding. Other areas close to the infected area may be affected and problems such as a bone infection may occur. You may have problems with blood supply to the area that may lead to tissue death. A scar may form on your skin as it heals. Sometimes the infection may come back and the abscess may form again after being treated successfully. If left untreated, the infection may get worse and the abscess may grow larger. The infection may also spread to other parts or organs of the body. Talk with your caregiver if you are worried or have questions about your procedure, medicine or care.

While you are here

Before your procedure

- **Informed consent:** You have the right to understand your health condition in words that you know. You should be told what tests, treatments or procedures might be done to treat your condition. Your doctor should also tell you about the risks and benefits of each treatment. You will be asked to sign a consent form (a legal document that tells exactly what will be done to you) that gives caregivers permission to do certain tests, treatments or procedures. If you are unable to give your consent, someone who has your permission can sign this form for you. Before giving your consent, make sure all of your questions have been answered so that you understand what may happen.
- **Pre-op care:** You may be given medicine right before your procedure or surgery. This medicine may make you feel relaxed and sleepy.

- **Monitoring:** Careful monitoring may be needed depending on the anesthesia that will be used. You may have any of the following:
 - **Heart monitor:** This is also called an ECG. Sticky pads are placed on different parts of your body. Each pad has a wire that is hooked to a TV-type screen. This shows caregivers a tracing of the electrical activity of your heart.
 - **Pulse oximeter:** A pulse oximeter is a machine that tells how much oxygen is in your blood. A cord with a clip or sticky strip is placed on your ear, finger or toe. The other end of the cord is hooked to a machine. Caregivers use this machine to see if you need more oxygen.
 - **Vital signs:** This includes taking your temperature, blood pressure, pulse and respirations. To take your blood pressure, a cuff is put on your arm and tightened. The cuff is attached to a machine, which gives your blood pressure reading. Caregivers may listen to your heart and lungs by using a stethoscope. Your vital signs are taken so caregivers can see how you are doing.
- **Anesthesia:** This is medicine to make you comfortable during the procedure. Your caregivers will decide which type of anesthesia medicine is best for you. You may have any of the following:
 - **Local anesthesia:** This is a shot of medicine that is put into the skin or mucus membrane to make you more comfortable during your procedure or surgery. It is used to numb the area and dull your pain. You may still feel pressure or pushing during the procedure or surgery after you get this medicine.
 - **Regional anesthesia:** Caregivers give this medicine to make you numb or to keep you from feeling pain during or after the procedure. It works by blocking a nerve that goes to a particular part of your body. Blocking a nerve keeps you from feeling anything in the area that nerve serves.
 - **General anesthesia:** This is medicine that may be given in your IV or as a gas that you breathe. You are completely asleep and free from pain during surgery.

Getting ready

The week before your procedure

- Ask a family member or friend to drive you home after your procedure. Do not drive yourself home.
- Ask your caregiver if you need to stop using any of your medicines. These may include aspirin, ibuprofen or blood thinners.
- Tell your caregiver if you know or think you might be pregnant.
- Your caregiver may want you to take antibiotics before having the procedure. Antibiotics are medicines to help your body fight infection. Ask your caregiver if you have questions about your medicine.
- You may need to have blood tests, X-rays and other tests.

The night before your procedure

- Remove any nail polish.

The day of your procedure

- Ask your caregiver before taking any medicine on the day of your procedure. These may include insulin, diabetic pills, heart pills, aspirin or blood thinners. Bring all the medicines you are taking, including the pill bottles, with you to the hospital.
- Tell your caregiver if you have allergies. This includes an allergy to a cleaning solution, such as iodine, or any numbing medicine.
- Caregivers may need to insert an intravenous tube (IV) into your vein. A vein in the arm is usually chosen. Through the IV tube, you may be given liquids and medicine.
- Your caregiver will talk to you before your procedure. He is the one who will be giving you medicine to make you sleepy during the procedure. Tell him if you or any member of your family has had a problem using anesthesia in the past.

Treatment

- You may be given medicine to help you relax or make you drowsy. General or regional anesthesia will be given to keep you free from pain during the procedure. The affected area, including the skin around it, will be cleaned with soap and water. Sheets will be put over you to keep the area clean.
- Your caregiver will make an incision over the abscess. The inside of the abscess will then be cleaned and washed using a saline (salt water) solution. The caregiver may insert a penrose drain that will be sutured into place and remain for a few days to help your infection heal.

After surgery

- If you are staying in the hospital you will be taken back to your room. If you had IV anesthesia, you will be monitored for a short period of time, then taken by a wheelchair to your vehicle and discharged to your driver.

Waiting room

- This is a room where your family and friends can wait until you are ready to be discharged. Your escort/driver may not leave the waiting room area until our staff dismisses them to get the vehicle to take you home.

Medicines

Your caregiver may give you the following kinds of medicines:

- **Antibiotics** may be given to help treat or prevent an infection caused by germs called bacteria.
- **Medicines for pain, swelling or fever** may be given while you are in the hospital. These medicines are safe for most people to use. However, they can cause serious problems when used by people with certain medical conditions. Tell your caregiver if you have liver or kidney disease, a history of bleeding in your stomach, or any other medical problems. Tell your caregiver about any allergies you have to medicines. Also tell your caregiver about all other medicines, herbs and supplements that you have taken lately.

After you leave

- Keep a written list of medicines you take, the amounts, and when and why you take them. Bring the list of your medicines or the pill bottles when you see your caregivers. Learn why you take each medicine. Ask your caregiver for information about your medicine. Do not use any medicines, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, herbs or food supplements without first talking to caregivers.
- Always take your medicine as directed by caregivers. Call your caregiver if you think your medicines are not helping or if you feel you are having side effects. Do not quit taking your medicines until you discuss it with your caregiver. If you are taking medicine that makes you drowsy, do not drive or use heavy equipment.
- **Antibiotics** may be given to help treat or prevent an infection caused by germs called bacteria. Always take your antibiotics exactly as ordered by your caregiver. Keep taking this medicine until it is completely gone, even if you feel better. Stopping antibiotics without your caregiver's approval may make the medicine unable to kill all of the germs. Never "save" antibiotics or keep leftover antibiotics that were given to you for another illness.
- **Pain medicine** may be given to take at home to take away or decrease pain. Your caregiver will tell you how much to take and how often to take it. Take the medicine exactly as directed by your caregiver. Do not wait until the pain is too bad before taking your medicine. The medicine may not work as well at controlling your pain if you wait too long to take it. Tell caregivers if the pain medicine does not help, or if your pain comes back too soon.

Follow-up visit information

Keep all appointments and write down any questions you have. This way you will remember to ask these questions during your next visit. Ask your caregiver when you should return to have your wound checked, and the packing and bandage changed.

Wearing a splint

Caregivers may want you to limit the movement of the affected area for sometime. A splint may be placed on your arm, hand or leg to do this. Keep the part of the body with the wound about the level of your heart if possible. This will help decrease the pain and swelling, and help your wound to heal.

Wound care

- Do not remove the bandage over your wound unless your caregiver says it is OK. Keep the bandage clean and dry.
- Clean the wound as often as ordered by your caregiver. If you cannot reach the wound, have someone help you.
- Make sure all the gauze used to pack the cavity is taken out and changed. Keep track of how many gauze dressings are placed inside the cavity whenever you do your wound care.
- Wash your hands before and after taking care of your wound to prevent spreading an infection.

Call if...

- You cannot make it to your procedure appointment on time.
- You have chills or get a temperature over 101 degrees Fahrenheit.
- You have more swelling, redness, drainage or bleeding.
- Your skin is itchy, swollen or has a rash.
- You have questions or concerns about your procedure or medicine.

Seek care immediately if...

- You have muscle, joint, or body aches, sweating or a fever.
- You have trouble breathing or chest pain all of a sudden.
- Your bandage becomes soaked with blood.

