

FEMALE UROLOGY

O F N A S H V I L L E

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Postoperative Instructions: Suprapubic Catheter

What can I expect immediately after the catheter is placed?

There will be some pain where the catheter enters your abdomen. As it heals, you will start to see a yellow discharge. There is no need for concern unless the discharge develops a foul odor. You will also likely have some bladder spasms resulting in leakage around the catheter or from your urethra. As it heals, the spasms usually improve, but we can try medications to calm the spasms if they are severe.

How do I manage the output from my catheter?

You will go home with a leg bag attached to your leg with a strap and a night bag to handle larger volumes of urine. There is also the option for a catheter plug which would allow you to manage without a bag and empty the catheter into a toilet when you feel full, but this can only be used once you are completely healed.

What if my suture breaks?

It is common for the suture attaching the catheter to the skin to break. The catheter will not fall out because it also has a balloon on the end keeping it in proper position.

How often does the catheter fall out?

This is very uncommon as it requires the balloon on the other end to break. If it does fall out, the catheter must be replaced very quickly else the opening will start to close, and another surgery will be needed to replace it.

What are the steps to proper catheter care?

- Wash your hands before you handle the catheter.
- Clean the area around the catheter with soap and water at least one time every day
- Keep the drainage bag lower than your bladder to keep urine from backing up.
- If you are prone to infections, clean the bag every day after removing it from the catheter. If you are not prone to infections, clean at least weekly. Use another container while you clean the bag. To clean the bag, fill it with 2 parts vinegar to 3 parts water and let it stand for 20 minutes. Then empty it out, and let it air dry. |
- Empty the drainage bag when it is full or at least every 8 hours.

When should you call for an appointment?

- Your catheter becomes blocked and urine does not collect in the drainage bag.
- Your catheter leaks.
- You have blood or pus in your urine.
- You have pain, increasing redness, swelling or bleeding around the catheter.