



Less time
in the waiting
room means
more time in
the living room.

The PleurX system is designed to allow you to manage your fluid accumulation in the comfort of your home. While you have been trained by your doctor or nurse in the correct way to use the items in the PleurX drainage kit, we realize you may still have some questions.

This brochure should provide answers to the most common questions about using the PleurX drainage kit. These questions and answers are also available in the *Instructions for Use* included with the PleurX drainage kit. If you have any problems or additional questions about draining fluid, please refer to the *Instructions for Use* or contact your doctor or nurse. Information is also available online at bd.com/PleurXPatient

“It was a very simple process. They showed it to me in the hospital one time, and I knew how to do it.”

B.C., PleurX caregiver, Louisville, KY

Frequently asked questions

PleurX™ drainage system

BD, Vernon Hills, IL, 60061, U.S.

bd.com/PleurXPatient

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“It just takes minutes to drain at home.”

Jill C., PleurX™ catheter patient, Louisville, KY

1. How often should I drain the fluid from my chest or abdomen?

You should drain fluid as directed by your doctor, usually every one to two days. Consult your doctor before changing the frequency of your drainage.

2. What if I still feel short of breath or experience discomfort after I finish draining?

Notify your doctor if you continue to feel short of breath or experience discomfort. Do not drain more than 1,000 mL of fluid from your chest or 2,000 mL of fluid from your abdomen at any one time.

3. When will I know the catheter can be removed?

When you try to drain fluid three times in a row and each time less than 50 mL drains into the bottle, you should see your doctor to find out if the catheter can be removed or if it needs to be replaced. *(See next question.)*

4. What does it mean if the volume of my drainage is smaller, or if I do not drain any fluid?

If the fluid goes away suddenly or if the amount of drainage gradually declines, it is possible that the catheter may be clogged. Squeeze the catheter and the drainage line gently. If the drainage does not begin, follow the instructions for changing to another bottle. If the drainage does not start when you use a second bottle, call your doctor.

If the amount of fluid gradually declines, the fluid may be drying up and it may be time for the catheter to be removed. Refer to the previous question, “When will I know that the catheter can be removed?”

5. How long will the catheter be in my chest or abdomen?

The catheter will be in until fluid stops draining. The amount of time will vary from patient to patient. Fluid buildup is not likely to stop in the abdomen, but may stop in the chest. The catheter may remain in place as long as you need it.

6. What should I do if the color of the fluid changes from the usual color?

Any change in the appearance of the fluid should be reported to your doctor.

7. Can I take a shower or bath with the catheter in place?

Shower: You can take a shower or sponge bath if a self-adhesive dressing like the one in the Procedure Pack is securely attached to your skin. The self-adhesive dressing is designed to keep fluid out. Be sure the dressing is completely and securely attached and the catheter and gauze pads are all contained underneath it. If the gauze becomes wet when showering, remove the dressing immediately, clean and dry the area and apply a new dressing as instructed in the *Instructions for Use* that came with the PleurX drainage kit.

Bath: Do not allow the catheter to soak underwater in a tub, bath or pool.

8. What happens if the PleurX Catheter is accidentally pulled out?

In the unlikely event the catheter is pulled out or the cuff becomes exposed, cover the exit site with a sterile dressing and seek immediate medical attention. The PleurX catheter has a polyester cuff that is normally under the skin where the catheter is inserted. This cuff and the sutures located where the catheter exits your body help keep the catheter in place.

9. How will I know if my catheter is infected?

You should contact your doctor immediately if you believe your catheter is infected. Pain, redness (*erythema*), warmth to touch, swelling (*edema*), fever or fluid from around the catheter site may indicate your catheter is infected. Some discomfort and redness after insertion is expected but should not persist or worsen.

When should I reorder supplies?

You should reorder supplies when you have three drainage kits remaining.

How do I reorder supplies?

Contact Edgepark Medical at 877.307.8033 or online at <http://www.edgepark.com>