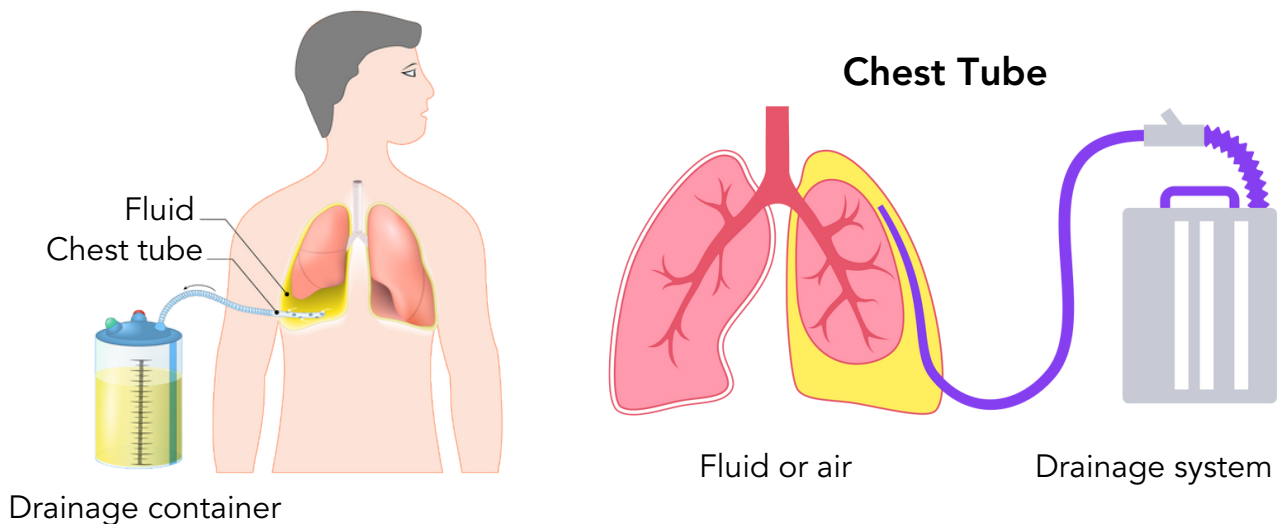


Chest Tube Drainage

What is a chest tube?

A chest tube is a small plastic tube known as chest drainage tube that is inserted to the pleural space between lungs and chest wall to remove air, blood, or fluid because of certain medical condition, injury, or surgery.



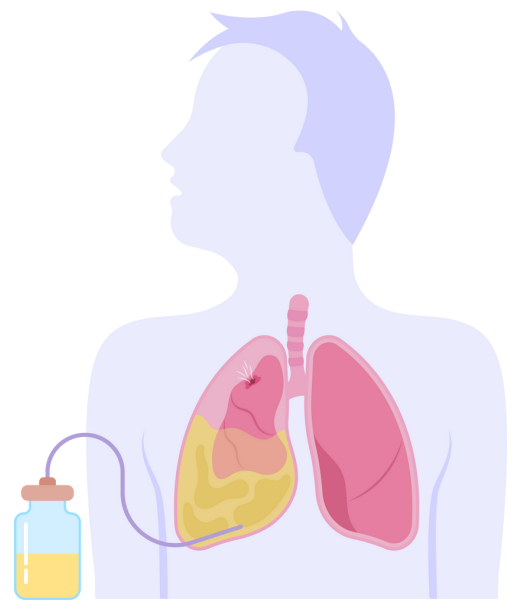
What should I expect after a chest tube has been inserted?

- Medicines may be prescribed to prevent or treat pain or infection.
- An X-ray will be ordered to check to make sure tube is in the right place.

You will most likely stay in hospital until your chest tube is removed. In some cases, patient may go home with a chest tube drain. Your healthcare providers will educate you on how to take care of your chest tube drain at home. You will also receive follow up doctor appointment for medical review.

Care for your chest tube:

- Check your chest drain tubing is free from occlusions and kinks. Keep the chest tube close to you when you are in bed and ensure the tubing is long enough so that you can move and turn in bed without pulling on it.
- Do not turn any knobs, clamp, or change any settings on your chest drain device.
- Ensure the drainage bottle is upright and below the level of your chest. This will help fluids drain from your chest.
- Ensure the dressing is clean, dry, and secured. Inform the nurse or Dr if you notice any problem with the dressing such as, dressing becomes wet or starts to come off.
- Cover the chest drain site and avoid showering directly over dressing.



What should I do to improve my lung condition?

With the chest drain in place, unless instructed otherwise. It is important to:

- Perform coughing and deep breathing exercise as this will decrease the risk for a lung infection.
- Mobilize (check with your nurse and doctor before mobilizing)
- Sit out of bed to promote drainage into the chest drainage bottle and facilitate lung expansion.
- Cough out sputum if present



When will the chest tube be removed?

The doctor will assess and decide when to remove your chest tube drain depending on your condition/ Xray, the lesser drainage/ no bubbling in the collection chamber usually means your lungs are improving.

What will happen after the chest tube is removed?

The chest tube will be removed, and you may experience slight discomfort during and after removal of the tube. The chest tube wound site will be sealed off with a suture and the stitch will usually be removed after a week.

An X-ray may be ordered after chest tube is removed.

Inform the nurse or doctor and seek help immediately or proceed to nearest emergency department if you:

- Have a persistent high fever.
- Difficulty in breathing.
- Severe pain, such as chest pain or pain over insertion site.
- Cough out blood.
- Noticed the insertion site is red, draining pus or has a bad smell coming out from it.
- Your chest tube comes out or chest tube is disconnected from the drainage bottle.
- Dressing is wet and soaked with blood or fluid.
- Excessive drainage output, or more than what is expected. Your doctor or nurse will advise you on the expected drainage output.

