

How do I take care of myself after the procedure?

Access site care

After 24 hours:

- Remove the bandage from your groin or wrist.
- Remove the white disc if you have one on your wrist. **Do not** pick off any brown material on the skin. Wash gently around the area.
- You can shower.

For the next 3 days, **do not** bath or soak in a tub.

Activity

- Resume taking any regular medications (unless your doctor tells you something different).
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Resume your regular diet.
- **Do not** smoke for at least the next 24 hours.
- **Do not** do any strenuous exercise or lifting anything over 4.5kg (10lbs) for at least the next 48 hours.
- **Do not** do strenuous work for at least the next 7 days.

Follow-up Instructions:

You might have a CT-Scan scheduled within 2 weeks to 1 month after this procedure. The Medical Imaging Department calls you with a date and time.

When to get help

Call your doctor or go to the nearest Emergency if you notice any of the following:

- bleeding from the access site that does not stop after pressing down firmly for at least 10 minutes
- pain that does not ease with pain medicine
- continually feeling sick and/or throwing up
- redness, pain, or pus from the access site
- fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, chills
- numbness, coolness, or change in color of the leg or foot of the access site (or arm or hand if a wrist was used)

Locations

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Lions Gate Hospital Medical Imaging, Lower Level 231 East 15 th Street, North Vancouver | 604-984-5775 |
| Royal Columbian Hospital Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower 330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster | 604-520-4640 |
| Surrey Memorial Hospital Medical Imaging, 1 st Floor, Lower Level 13750 96 th Avenue, Surrey | 604-588-3308 |
| Vancouver General Hospital GI/GU Department, Jim Pattison Pavilion Station 4, Ground Floor, 855 West 12 th Avenue, Vancouver | 604-875-4111 Ext 68612 |

HealthLinkBC

8-1-1

Call any time you have any questions or concerns. HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours. Available in 130 languages. For an interpreter, say your language in English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.

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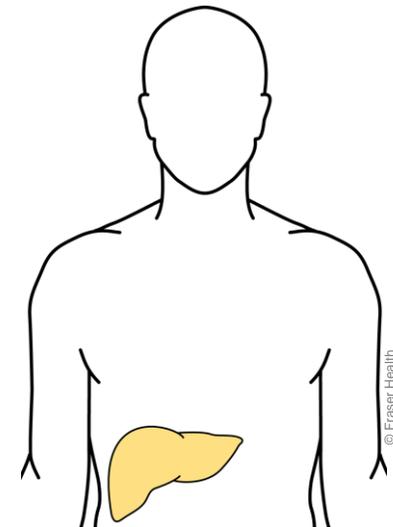
This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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Chemoembolization

Treating Liver Tumours



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What is chemoembolization?

Chemoembolization (say *kee-mo-em-bol-eye-zay-shun*) is a therapy used to treat liver tumours.

You might hear it called transarterial chemoembolization (or TACE) – transarterial means through arteries. This therapy might be used along with surgery or ablation treatments.

Chemotherapy medicines are injected into the arteries closest to the tumour. This allows a high dose of chemotherapy to be delivered directly into the tumour area. If needed, an embolic agent might also be used to block the blood supply to the tumour.

Who will be doing the procedure?

An interventional radiologist does the chemoembolization procedure (a doctor who specializes in image guided procedures using x-ray and fluoroscopy).

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, a relative or friend can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for safety reasons, they cannot be in the room with you during the procedure.

What do I need to do to prepare for this?

Plan to stay in the hospital overnight. Bring only those items you will need for the night, including the medications you regularly take.

Our Medical Imaging Department contacts you with specific instructions about how to prepare for this procedure.

You must arrange for a responsible adult to drive or escort you home.

Alert Tell us if you have:

- any allergies.
- reacted to x-ray dye in the past

What happens before the procedure?

An intravenous is started. This allows us to give sedation medications and medicine to treat any nausea you might have. You are monitored both during and after the procedure. If you have questions about the procedure, you can ask the radiologist before your procedure.

What happens during the procedure?

The radiologist:

- Injects numbing medication (similar to dental freezing) into the skin of a wrist or groin.
- Makes a small incision (cut) in the skin (the access site).
- Uses fluoroscopy (real-time x-ray) to guide a tiny, long, flexible tube (called a catheter) through the artery towards the tumour.
- Injects x-ray dye several times to show the blood supply to the liver.
- Injects the chemotherapy medication through the catheter when in position.
- Injects the embolic agent to reduce the blood supply to the tumour, if needed.
- Removes the catheter and places either a closure device (groin site) or a pressure band (wrist site) over the site to stop any bleeding.

How long will it take?

The procedure itself usually takes 1 to 2 hours.

Will it hurt?

You might have some pain or discomfort during the procedure. Numbing medication and pain medication are used to help with this.

What happens after the procedure?

We move you to a recovery area. During this time, we check you and the access site to make sure there is no bleeding. When ready, we move you to a nursing unit for the night.

It can take around 2 to 6 hours to fully recover. It depends on whether your wrist or groin was used and what medications were given.

Are there any risks or complication?

Unexpected complications include but are not limited to:

- bleeding or blood clots at the site
- allergic reactions to x-ray dye
- infection
- life threatening complications are possible, but rarely occur

How will I feel afterwards?

It is normal to experience these as you recover:

- Feel sick to your stomach (nauseated) - You can take anti-nausea medication for this.
- Not have much of an appetite - To keep from losing weight, eat small meals more often.
- Have right upper abdominal pain for the first few days to a week (could radiate into the shoulder or back)
- Mild fever up to 38.5°C (101°F) for 1 to 2 weeks
- Feel tired all the time (fatigue) for 2 to 4 weeks