Ultrasound-guided Paracentesis

Appointment Date: __________________________ Time: _______________________

LOCATION
Aultman Hospital
Imaging Services
2600 Sixth St. SW
Canton, OH 44710

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEDURE
Ultrasound-guided Paracentesis is a procedure used to obtain fluid from the abdominal cavity. Normally, only a small amount of fluid is present surrounding the abdominal organs. However, some conditions can cause a large amount of fluid to accumulate. The collection of fluid is called ascites. Your physician can request to have the fluid sent for testing to help determine why the ascites has developed. In some cases a paracentesis is performed to relieve the abdominal distention and discomfort caused by the accumulation of fluid in the abdominal cavity.

WHAT YOU MAY EXPECT DURING THE PROCEDURE
When you arrive for your procedure, you will be taken to the Radiology Receiving area where a nurse will ask you a few questions about your medical history and medications. She will also take your vital signs. When the nurse is finished, a staff member will walk you to the Ultrasound department for your procedure.

Once in the ultrasound room, you will be asked to lie on your back on the scanning cart. Preliminary images will be taken by the technologist to determine if there is enough fluid to drain. After reviewing the images, the radiologist or physician assistant (PA) will scan the area to determine the best location to place the drainage catheter. The radiologist or PA will talk to you to make sure all your questions have been answered.

Your skin will be cleaned, and a local anesthetic will be used to numb the area. The catheter will be placed through the abdominal wall into the fluid. After it is inserted, the catheter will be attached to a vacuum bottle which will drain the fluid from the abdomen. Once the fluid stops draining, the catheter will be removed, the area cleaned and a bandage placed over the site.
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

☐ If you take blood thinners or aspirin, you will be given specific instructions by your physician on which medications to stop and for how long prior to your procedure. Blood work may be necessary prior to the procedure for certain medications.

☐ Ultrasound-guided Paracentesis are usually scheduled between 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. If blood work is necessary, you will need to report to the Outpatient Lab one hour prior to your procedure so the results are available for the radiologist to review.

☐ Please bring a written order from your doctor, complete list of all your medications and a driver’s license or other photo ID.

☐ You will be required to read and sign exam consent forms. If reading glasses are needed, please bring them with you.

SCHEDULING & REGISTRATION

All exams require an order from your physician. The physician’s office will contact the Ultrasound department to schedule your procedure. You will need to pre-register by calling Centralized Scheduling at 330-363-6288, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

QUESTIONS PRIOR TO TESTING

Please call the Ultrasound department at 330-438-6205. Sunday-Saturday: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

PARKING

Free visitor parking is available in Lot 3 across from the Bedford building; enter from Sixth Street. Valet parking is available at the Seventh Street and Bedford building entrances for a $5 fee – or free if you are a handicapped motorist or making a newborn pickup. Deck parking is also available for a fee, based on your length of stay.

DIRECTIONS TO THE ULTRASOUND DEPARTMENT

The Ultrasound Department is located within Imaging Services on the Ground Level of Aultman Hospital. From the parking deck located on Seventh Street, you will enter the Seventh Street (main hospital) lobby and take the elevators to the Ground Level. After exiting the elevator, turn to your left and you will see the Imaging Services check-in desk.