

Sometimes a small amount of urine leaks from the kidney collecting in the abdomen; if this becomes large it may need to be drained.

There may be slight bleeding from the kidney, in very rare occasions this may require either another radiological procedure or a surgical operation if the bleeding becomes severe.

There is a small risk of infection, as with all procedures which puncture the skin, but these can be treated with antibiotics. Percutaneous nephrostomy is a very common procedure which usually gives relief and improvement to a patient's condition and can prevent the need for an operation. Risks are rare and the benefits usually outweigh the risks.

This leaflet has hopefully answered some of your questions and concerns. It is important to discuss your procedure with the urologist looking after you and do not be afraid to ask any questions you may have before or during your admission.

Useful Phone Numbers

Radiology Appointments
0300 019 4286

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To ask for this leaflet in larger print, please contact the patient experience team on **0300 019 8499** or email uhd.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net.

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Review date: **June 2029** Ref: **559-21**

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Percutaneous Nephrostomy

Radiology Department

Information and advice for patients and carers about Percutaneous Nephrostomy

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What is a percutaneous nephrostomy?

The urine from your kidney drains to your bladder through a narrow tube called the ureter. When this tube becomes blocked (for example by a stone) the urine is unable to drain which can affect the kidney.

The kidney can be drained by placing a small tube through the skin and into the kidney using local anaesthetic. This tube then drains urine in to a small bag which sits outside the body.

Who will carry out the procedure?

A specially trained doctor called a Radiologist will perform the procedure; they are trained to interpret x-rays and ultrasound which they use during the procedure.

How do I prepare for the percutaneous nephrostomy?

You will need to be admitted to hospital for the procedure. You will be asked not to eat for six hours and not to drink for two hours before your procedure.

What happens during a percutaneous nephrostomy?

You will be lying on your stomach on the x-ray table so your kidney will be easier to see for the procedure. Once you are on the x-ray table you will have monitoring devices attached to your arm and finger - this is routine practice. The nurse assisting the radiologist will clean the area on your back with a sterile solution, you will then be covered with a blue drape to keep everything sterile. There will be a nurse with you at all times to monitor your blood pressure and pulse and administer sedation or painkillers if needed.

The radiologist will use an ultrasound machine to find the best place to enter the kidney, before numbing the skin with local anaesthetic. A needle will then be placed in the kidney and a guide wire placed through the needle. The nephrostomy tube is placed over the wire into the kidney, and then the wire is

removed, leaving the tube in place in the kidney allowing the urine to drain. The tube is secured to the skin and attached to a drainage bag.

How long will it take?

This will depend on each patient's situation but as a guide it will take around 30 minutes per kidney.

Will it hurt?

The radiologist will use a local anaesthetic on the skin which will sting for a short time before going numb. Unfortunately you may still feel a bit of discomfort during the procedure. Staff will be with you so let them know if it's painful and painkillers can be given, but any pain should be for a short period of time only.

What happens after the procedure?

You will go back to the ward on your bed to rest for a few hours where the nurses will take your blood pressure and pulse and look after you.

You can carry on a normal life with the tube in situ. Remember to be careful not to catch the tube for example when dressing. The bag can be strapped to your leg for comfort and will need to be emptied when full or every 2 to 3 hours. It is suggested that you do not swim or take baths whilst you have the nephrostomy tube. The staff on the ward will teach you how to empty the bag and give you more information about washing with your nephrostomy.

How long will it stay in for?

This is something which you will need to discuss with your urologist as it depends on your condition and circumstances; however it is a quick and simple procedure to remove the catheter when no longer needed.

What are the risks or complications?

Percutaneous Nephrostomy is a common safe procedure, but as with any medical procedure there are some risks and complication that can occur.