

Imaging of the bile ducts and drain placement

You're coming for bile duct imaging and placement of a drain.

The procedure requires both preparation and aftercare and therefore a place will be reserved for you in the ward.

What is the Purpose of the Procedure?

The purpose of the procedure is to image the bile duct blockage or narrowing, to ease the resulting symptoms (jaundice, itching and liver dysfunction) and to direct the bile primarily along the normal path to the small intestine or alternatively to a collection bag.

How do you Prepare for the Procedure?

- You will arrive at the hospital the day before the procedure.
- Blood tests will be taken for the procedure.
- **You must fast from the morning of the day of the procedure.**

How is the procedure done?

The procedure is performed using local anesthesia, with the help of X-Rays. To facilitate the passage of bile, a thin plastic tube, or catheter, is placed through the skin. Images of the bile ducts will be taken using X-rays.

If a bile blockage or narrowing is detected, we will try to create a channel through and unblock it. If the situation so requires, the catheter can be attached to the skin and left in place for a few days or weeks. The bile flows through the catheter into the bag on your side. If internal channelling is successful, the bile fluid enters the small intestine.

What about after the procedure?

- The procedure lasts 1-2 hours, after which you go back to the ward. In the ward, they will monitor the excretion of bile through the special catheter.
- The catheter is flushed three times a day. Blood levels are being monitored.
- You can go home upon doctor's recommendation. Most people can manage with the catheter at home.
- The catheter is removed when it is no longer needed or when an internal stent or tube is installed.
- If the bile stops flowing from the external catheter or if the symptoms re-occur, please contact the ward.

Where do you get the results from the procedure?

The referring outpatient clinic or ward is responsible for communicating the results of the examination to you.