PD Drain Problem Solving Guide

Recognize outflow or drain problems and understand what you and your PD team can do to help find solutions.

What To Do If You Have...

Trouble Draining
- Look for kinked or clamped catheter or drain lines
- Straighten lines and open clamps
- Make sure tubing is free of kinks before securing catheter or tapping drain line
- Wear non-confining clothing
- Change body position during drain
  - Roll side to side (to move fluid)
  - Sit up (to increase intra-peritoneal pressure)
- Look for fibrin or clots in drained fluid

Tell your PD Nurse about any drain problems, cloudy fluid or fibrin, or discomfort

Constipation
- Increase dietary fiber and regular exercise
- Be sure you are taking your stool softeners, if prescribed

If problems still exist, treatment from your PD nurse or physician may be necessary

What Your Nurse or Physician May Do If...

Fibrin or Clots Are Noted
- Flush or irrigate catheter per protocol
- Add heparin to PD solution, if prescribed

Infection is Suspected
- Collect samples of drained fluid
- Begin antibiotic treatment as instructed

The Catheter Moves Out of Position
- Ask you to:
  - Crouch in a knee chest position (during dwell)
  - Walk up and down stairs (during dwell)
- Have an X-ray to check placement

The Catheter Kinks Under the Skin or Dressing
- Remove dressing
  - Straighten kinks and secure catheter in place
- Apply gentle pressure over tunnel
  - If pressure improves flow, nurse will notify surgeon

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The following procedures should be performed only under the direction and supervision of your physician and PD nurse.


The information contained here is not intended to replace the judgement or experience of the attending physician or other medical professional. The treatment prescription is the sole responsibility of the attending physician.

Please refer to your clinic’s policies and procedures for further information.

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