Thoracentesis (Pleural Tap)

A. Interpreter / cultural needs

An Interpreter Service is required? □ Yes □ No
If Yes, is a qualified Interpreter present? □ Yes □ No
A Cultural Support Person is required? □ Yes □ No
If Yes, is a Cultural Support Person present? □ Yes □ No

B. Condition and treatment

The doctor has explained that you have the following condition: (Doctor to document in patient's own words)

This condition requires the following procedure. (Doctor to document - include site and/or side where relevant to the procedure)

The following will be performed:
The area where the pleural tap needle goes is numbed by an injection of local anaesthetic. The needle goes through the skin, between the ribs and into the fluid around the lung. A sample of fluid is usually taken and sent to pathology for testing.

If you have a closed pleural biopsy the same process is used to remove tissue samples from the inside lining of the chest wall.

At the end of the procedure, the needle is taken out. A dressing is put over the area.

A Chest X-Ray may then be taken

C. Risks of a thoracentesis (pleural tap)

In recommending this procedure your doctor has balanced the benefits and risks of the procedure against the benefits and risks of not proceeding. Your doctor believes there is a net benefit to you going ahead.

There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

Common risks and complications (more than 5%) include:

- Coughing.
- Fainting.
- Collapsed lung. This may need a chest tube to be inserted into the chest cavity to reinflate the lung.
- Increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.

Uncommon risks and complications (1-5%) include:

- Fluid may build up in the lung after air or fluid is removed. You may feel short of breath.
- Pain. This is more likely if you have a closed pleural biopsy. This can be controlled with pain relief medication.

Rare risks and complications (less than 1%) include:

- Bleeding into the space between the lungs and ribs. This may be more common if you have a closed pleural biopsy.
- The needle may damage nearby parts of the body (for example: liver or spleen).
- Emergency surgery due to complications with the procedure.
- Death as a result of this procedure is rare.

D. Significant risks and procedure options

(Doctor to document in space provided. Continue in Medical Record if necessary.)

E. Risks of not having this procedure

(Doctor to document in space provided. Continue in Medical Record if necessary.)

F. Anaesthetic

This procedure may require an anaesthetic. (Doctor to document type of anaesthetic discussed)
G. Patient consent

I acknowledge that the doctor has explained:

- my medical condition and the proposed procedure, including additional treatment if the doctor finds something unexpected. I understand the risks, including the risks that are specific to me.
- the anaesthetic required for this procedure. I understand the risks, including the risks that are specific to me.
- other relevant procedure/treatment options and their associated risks.
- my prognosis and the risks of not having the procedure.
- that no guarantee has been made that the procedure will improve my condition even though it has been carried out with due professional care.
- tissues and blood may be removed and could be used for diagnosis or management of my condition, stored and disposed of sensitively by the hospital.
- if immediate life-threatening events happen during the procedure, they will be treated based on my discussions with the doctor or my Acute Resuscitation Plan.
- a doctor other than the Consultant may conduct the procedure. I understand this could be a doctor undergoing further training.

I have been given the following Patient Information Sheet/s:

☐ Local Anaesthetic & Sedation for Your Procedure
☐ Thoracentesis (Pleural Tap)

I was able to ask questions and raise concerns with the doctor about my condition, the proposed procedure and its risks, and my treatment options. My questions and concerns have been discussed and answered to my satisfaction.

I understand I have the right to change my mind at any time, including after I have signed this form but, preferably following a discussion with my doctor.

I understand that image/s or video footage may be recorded as part of and during my procedure and that these image/s or video/s will assist the doctor to provide appropriate treatment.

On the basis of the above statements,

I request to have the procedure

Name of Patient:.................................................................
Signature:............................................................................
Date:..................................................................................

Patients who lack capacity to provide consent

Consent must be obtained from a substitute decision maker/s in the order below.

Does the patient have an Advance Health Directive (AHD)?

☐ Yes ▶ Location of the original or certified copy of the AHD:

☐ No ▶ Name of Substitute Decision Maker/s:........................
       Signature:......................................................................
       Relationship to patient:..............................................
       Date:.......................................................... PH No:........
       Source of decision making authority (tick one):
       □ Tribunal-appointed Guardian
       □ Attorney/s for health matters under Enduring Power of Attorney or AHD
       □ Statutory Health Attorney
       □ If none of these, the Adult Guardian has provided consent. Ph 1300 QLD OAG (753 624)

H. Doctor/delegate statement

I have explained to the patient all the above points under the Patient Consent section (G) and I am of the opinion that the patient/substitute decision-maker has understood the information.

Name of Doctor/delegate:.............................................
Designation:....................................................................
Signature:........................................................................
Date:................................................................................

I. Interpreter’s statement

I have given a sight translation in

(state the patient’s language here) of the consent form and assisted in the provision of any verbal and written information given to the patient/parent or guardian/substitute decision-maker by the doctor.

Name of Interpreter:....................................................
Signature:........................................................................
Date:................................................................................
Consent Information - Patient Copy
Thoracentesis (Pleural Tap)

1. **What is a thoracentesis (pleural tap)?**
   A pleural tap removes a sample of fluid which has built up in the space between the lungs and the ribs.
   If you have a closed pleural biopsy the same process is used to remove tissue samples from the inside lining of the chest wall.
   You will have the following procedure:
   The area where the pleural tap needle goes is numbed by an injection of local anaesthetic. The needle goes through the skin, between the ribs and into the fluid around the lung. A sample of fluid is taken and sent to pathology for testing. Sometimes the doctor is unable to obtain a sample of fluid.
   At the end of the procedure, the needle is taken out. A dressing is put over the area.
   A Chest X-Ray may then be taken.

2. **My anaesthetic**
   This procedure will require an anaesthetic.
   See [Local Anaesthetic and Sedation for Your Procedure information sheet](#) for information about the anaesthetic and the risks involved. If you have any concerns, discuss these with your doctor.
   *If you have not been given an information sheet, please ask for one.*

3. **What are the risks of this specific procedure?**
   In recommending this procedure your doctor has balanced the benefits and risks of the procedure against the benefits and risks of not proceeding. Your doctor believes there is a net benefit to you going ahead.
   There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.
   **Common risks and complications (more than 5%)** include:
   - Coughing.
   - Fainting.
   - Collapsed lung. This may need a chest tube to be inserted into the chest cavity to reinflate the lung.
   - Increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.
   **Uncommon risks and complications (1-5%)** include:
   - Fluid may build up in the lung after air or fluid is removed. You may feel short of breath.
   - Pain. This is more likely if you have a closed pleural biopsy. This can be controlled with pain relief medication.
   **Rare risks and complications (less than 1%)** include:
   - Bleeding into the space between the lungs and ribs. This may be more common if you have a closed pleural biopsy.
   - The needle may damage nearby parts of the body (for example: liver or spleen).
   - Emergency surgery due to complications with the procedure.
   - Death as a result of this procedure is rare.

![Diagram of pleural tap and lung](#)

**Notes to talk to my doctor about:**

[...]

[Fig 1. National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute](#)
1. What is an Ultrasound?
Ultrasound scans assess internal organs and help to diagnose a variety of conditions. They are also performed to assess disease in the arteries or veins. An Ultrasound machine is made up of a console containing a computer, a display screen and a probe (transducer). The probe is a small hand-held device that resembles a microphone. Ultrasound pictures are produced by passing ultrasonic (high frequency) soundwaves into the area being scanned. Ultrasound does not use x-rays.

2. Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?
An Ultrasound is a painless procedure. No anaesthetic is required. If scanning is performed over an area of tenderness, you may feel pressure or minor discomfort from the probe.

3. Preparation for the procedure
There are different preparations required depending on the area of the body being scanned. The medical imaging department will give you instructions on how to prepare for your scan.

4. During the procedure
The lights in the room will be dimmed so that the pictures on the screen can be seen more clearly. A gel will be applied to your skin over the area to be scanned. The gel allows the probe to slide easily over the skin and helps produce clearer pictures. The probe will be moved back and forth slowly over the area of interest until the area is completely examined. You could be asked to hold your breath or roll into different positions during the scan. Once the scan is complete, the gel will be wiped off your skin.

The Ultrasound will take between 15 and 60 minutes. This time frame is dependent on what body part is being scanned and the type of investigation is required.

In some ultrasound studies, the probe is inserted into a natural opening in the body. These procedures include:

- Transrectal Ultrasound where the probe is inserted into a man’s rectum to view the prostate.
- Transvaginal Ultrasound where the probe is inserted into a woman’s vagina to view the uterus and ovaries.

These procedures may cause minimal discomfort.

If you are having an intimate examination the staff will describe the procedure to you, and your verbal consent for this will be obtained. A second staff member may also be in the room during these procedures.

5. What are the risks of this specific procedure?
There are no known risks from an ultrasound. It is considered to be a very safe procedure.

Notes to talk to my doctor/ health practitioner about:

Consent Information - Patient Copy
Ultrasound