Fistula - Faecal / Small Bowel / Gastric

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 surgical closure of a fistula (track) that has formed between the bowel and the skin.

C. Risks of the closure of a fistula (faecal / small bowel / gastric)

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

General risks:
- Infection can occur, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- Bleeding could occur and may require a return to the operating room. Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs such as Warfarin, Asprin, Clopidogrel (Plavix or Iscover) or Dipyridamole (Persantin or Asasantin).
- Small areas of the lung can collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- Increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis.
- Heart attack or stroke could occur due to the strain on the heart.
- Blood clot in the leg (DVT) causing pain and swelling. In rare cases part of the clot may break off and go to the lungs.
- Death as a result of this procedure is possible.

Specific risks:
- Especially in a male there may be difficulty passing urine and a tube may need to be inserted into the bladder, until the bladder can empty normally.
- Deep bleeding in the abdominal cavity could occur and this may need fluid replacement or further surgery.
- Part of the bowel may need removal. The joined part of the bowel may cause problems such as leaking of bowel fluid and infection in the abdomen. This may need further surgery.
- Damage may occur to other parts of the bowel in the attempt to fix the fistula. This may need further surgery.
- Infections such as pus collections can occur in the abdominal cavity. This may need surgical drainage.
- The bowel movement may be paralysed or blocked after surgery and this may cause building up of fluid in the bowel with bloating of the abdomen and vomiting. Further treatment may be necessary for this.
- A weakness can occur in the wound with complete or incomplete, bursting of the wound in the short term, or a hernia in the long term. This may need further surgery.
- The wound can be thickened and red and may be painful.
- Adhesions (bands of scar tissue) may form and cause bowel obstruction. This can be a short term or a long-term complication and may need further surgery.
- The fistula may recur.
- Increased risk in smokers of wound and chest infections, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.

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.
- the procedure may include a blood transfusion.
- 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:

- About Your Anaesthetic
- Anaesthetic: Nerve Block
- Epidural & Spinal Anaesthetic
- Fistula – Faecal/Small Bowel/Gastric

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,
1. What is a fistula (faecal / small bowel / gastric)?
A fistula is an abnormal track between two organs in the body or between an organ and the exterior of the body.
The surgical closure of the fistula (track) that has formed between the bowel and the skin is needed.

2. My anaesthetic
This procedure will require an anaesthetic.
See About Your Anaesthetic information sheet OR Anaesthetic: Nerve Block information sheet OR Epidural and Spinal Anaesthetic 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?
There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

General risks:
- Infection can occur, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- Bleeding could occur and may require a return to the operating room. Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs such as Warfarin, Asprin, Clopidogrel (Plavix or Icover) or Dipyridamole (Persantin or Asasantin).
- Small areas of the lung can collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- Increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis.
- Heart attack or stroke could occur due to the strain on the heart.
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Specific risks:
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- Part of the bowel may need removal. The joined part of the bowel may cause problems such as leaking of bowel fluid and infection in the abdomen. This may need further surgery.
- Damage may occur to other parts of the bowel in the attempt to fix the fistula. This may need further surgery.
- Infections such as pus collections can occur in the abdominal cavity. This may need surgical drainage.
- The bowel movement may be paralysed or blocked after surgery and this may cause building up of fluid in the bowel with bloating of the abdomen and vomiting. Further treatment may be necessary for this.
- A weakness can occur in the wound with complete or incomplete, bursting of the wound in the short term, or a hernia in the long term. This may need further surgery.
- The wound can be thickened and red and may be painful.
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- The fistula may recur.
- Increased risk in smokers of wound and chest infections, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.

Notes to talk to my doctor about: