Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Paracentesis

How should I prepare for this procedure?

- You may eat and drink as normal prior to this procedure.
- For Gainesville procedures, you will need to arrive an hour and a half before your scheduled appointment time. For Braselton procedures, you will need to arrive an hour to an hour and a half before your scheduled appointment time. For Barrow procedures, you will need to arrive an hour before your scheduled appointment time.
- A nurse from the Interventional Radiology department will reach out to you via phone the day before your procedure.
- For your safety, you must have a caregiver or responsible adult with you to drive you home after your procedure. Due to the effects of anesthesia, sedation, or other post-procedural effects, you will not be able to drive yourself. Additionally, the responsible adult accompanying you will assume responsibility for you upon discharge. This person should be someone who can provide support and care as needed while you recover.

What should I expect when I arrive?

- For Gainesville, you will go to the registration department in the Blue tower of the hospital. When you arrive in the main lobby of the Blue tower, go down the hallway on your left. The registration department is located on the right. Labs will be drawn here if necessary.
- For Braselton, you will go in through the main entrance and check in at the desk. You will be directed to registration from there. Labs will be drawn here if necessary.
- For Barrow, you will go to the registration desk located inside the main entrance of the hospital.
- After registration, you will go to the radiology waiting room. A staff member will show you back to the Interventional Radiology department. Your driver can accompany you back to the prep area.
- A provider and nurse will explain the procedure, go over discharge instructions, and decide what medications can be safely given. An IV for medication administration will be placed if necessary.
- When it is time to go to ultrasound for your procedure, your driver will be shown to the waiting room.

What medications will be offered during this procedure?

- There is no pain or anxiety medication offered for this procedure. Occasionally, your doctor will order albumin to be administered.

What should I expect during my procedure?

- When it is time for your procedure, your nurse will take you to an ultrasound room for your procedure.
- When your tech and nurse are ready, the provider will be paged to the procedure room.

- The provider will numb the area with lidocaine or another local anesthetic.
- A needle with a small tube attached will be put into your belly. An ultrasound may be used to help with the placement.
- The tube will be connected to a container to catch the fluid.
- After enough fluid has been removed, the needle will be taken out.
- A sample of the fluid may be sent to a lab for testing.
- A bandage may be placed over the puncture site.

What should I expect after my procedure?

- Minor discomfort may be present that should be controllable by over-the-counter medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc.) or whatever you normally take for pain at home. No pain medication prescriptions will be provided on discharge. Any significant pain post-procedure would warrant a trip to the ER or a call to the ordering physician.
- There is no recovery for this procedure. You will be discharged home after your procedure is complete.