Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Percutaneous Transhepatic Cholangiogram (PTC)

How should I prepare for this procedure?

- You must not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your procedure. A sip of water with certain approved medications is the only thing acceptable to be taken by mouth.
- 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.
- Blood thinners need to be held for this procedure. You will need to check with your primary care provider that it is acceptable for your blood thinners to be held for this procedure.

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.
- When it is time to go to IR for your procedure, your driver will be shown to the waiting room.

What medications will be offered during this procedure?

- General anesthesia is used for this procedure.
- A breathing tube will be placed, and you will be monitored by an anesthesiologist.

What should I expect during my procedure?

- When it is time for your procedure, your nurse will bring you to the IR lab.
- You will be positioned on the IR table on your back.

- The anesthesia team will put you to sleep.
- When your nurse and tech are ready, the doctor will be paged to the procedure room.
- The provider will numb the area up with a local anesthetic.
- The drainage catheter will be put into a needle.
- The needle will be put into the right side of your abdomen. It will be guided to your bile duct using a type of X-ray.
- A dye will be put through the catheter. This will make your bile ducts easier to see.
- If your catheter is for an internal or internal-external system, it will be moved to your small intestine.
- If your catheter is for an external or internal-external system, it will exit your body. It will connect to a collection bag.
- If you have an internal system, the part of the catheter outside your body will be left in place for a short time. It will be removed once the drainage system has been checked.
- The catheter will be held in place with a stitch (*suture*).

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.
- You can expect to spend the night in the hospital the night after your procedure.
- Drain care, dressing change, and drain flushing information will be provided prior to discharge home.