Abdominal Drainage

WHY IS THIS TEST DONE:
Abdominal drainage is a procedure to drain fluid from the peritoneal cavity, the space between the abdominal wall and organs. Inflammation, infection and traumatic injury, among other things, can cause fluid to build up in the cavity. The fluid is called ascites.

WHAT TO EXPECT:
The patient will arrive at the hospital and enter at the main entrance. The patient will report in to register and review insurance. The patient should have a copy of the orders as a precaution. The patient will be brought back to the department where we will confirm the patient’s identity, explain the procedure, and review their history.

First, an ultrasound or CT scan will be performed to evaluate the amount and location of the fluid. The doctor will then inject a local numbing medicine at the site where the fluid will be drained.

The doctor will guide a small needle through the skin and into the fluid, and the fluid will be sucked out (aspirated) with a syringe. If it is likely that fluid will continue to accumulate, the doctor will place a drainage catheter, using live X-ray (fluoroscopy) for guidance. (Your child will be protected by an X-ray shield.) A small amount of the ascites (the fluid) will be sent to the laboratory to determine the cause of the accumulation.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?
The exam itself will take between 30-60 minutes. Patient needs to arrive 1 hour prior to the exam for any pre-testing necessary. They may also be asked to stay 30 minutes after the exam for observation. The patient will most likely be preregistered and go directly to the Imaging Department.
PREPARATION:
If the patient was given an order (prescription) for the exam, they must have that with them at the time of the exam. Patients should expect to receive instructions from radiology nurse 1 or 2 days prior to procedure. Please follow instructions exactly.

PRECAUTIONS:
To be discussed with the Pediatric Radiologist.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:
Please notify your physician and the Imaging staff if you have any allergies, especially to local anesthetics such as lidocaine.

MEDICATION ISSUES:
Patient should avoid taking anti-inflammatory medication 24-48 hours prior to procedure (ex: Advil, Motrin, ibuprofen, Aleve, naproxyn, etc), aspirin, plavix, coumadin, or any other blood thinners should be stopped prior to exam. Please be sure to discuss discontinuation or prescribed medications with your physician, they will tell you how many days prior to the procedure to discontinue you medications. Do not discontinue medications without consulting with your physician first.