Percutaneous Transhepatic Cholangiogram (PTC)

WHY IS THIS TEST DONE:
A percutaneous transhepatic cholangiogram, or PTC, is an X-ray of the bile ducts (also called the biliary ducts). Radiologists and other doctors use the images to determine if the ducts are underdeveloped or blocked. If the ducts are blocked, the doctor may place a drainage catheter. PTC is sometimes performed at the same time as a liver biopsy.

Bile is a substance that helps digest fats. It is made in the liver and stored in the gallbladder. After meals, it is excreted into the intestines via the bile ducts.

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.

Using ultrasound and live X-ray (fluoroscopy) for guidance, the radiologist will insert a small needle through the skin and liver and into one of the bile ducts. Then the radiologist will inject X-ray dye into the ducts and X-ray images will be obtained. Your child will be protected by an X-ray shield during this procedure.

We will use either IV sedation or general anesthesia so that your child isn’t awake.

Some children feel pain or discomfort at the needle-insertion site, usually in the first day or two after the procedure. You may give over-the-counter pain medication.

Leave the bandage on for 48 hours. Then you may remove the clear bandage and gauze; do not remove the Steri-Strips® (white strips). If a drainage catheter was placed, it will be secured with a locking device (StatLock®) which must not be removed. Keep the site completely dry for the first 48 hours. After 48 hours, your child may shower or have a sponge bath, but you should
continue to keep the area dry. Do not submerge the site in water (bath or pool) until the Steri-Strips have fallen off.

**HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?**
The procedure takes approximately 30 minutes to one hour.

**PREPARATION:**
If your child was given a copy of the exam order or a prescription for the exam, you must present it at time of registration. Patients should expect to receive instructions from a radiology nurse two to three days prior to procedure.

**PRECAUTIONS:**
The precautions of the actual procedure will be discussed with the Pediatric Radiologist.

Contact us immediately if your child experiences any of the following:

- Bleeding from the bandage
- Fever higher than 101° Fahrenheit
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice)
- Severe abdominal pain; right shoulder pain

Monday through Friday, call EPCH radiology department at (915) 242-8510. After hours, you may call EPCH emergency department at (915) 298-5443.

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

**MEDICATION ISSUES:**
If the patient was given an order (prescription) for the exam, they must have that with them at the time of the exam. Patient should avoid taking anti-inflammatory medication 24-48 hours prior to procedure (ex: Advil, Motrin, ibuprofen, Aleve, naproxen, 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 without consultation with your physician first.

Source: http://www.chop.edu/service/radiology/interventional-radiology/percutaneous-transhepatic-cholangiogram.html