

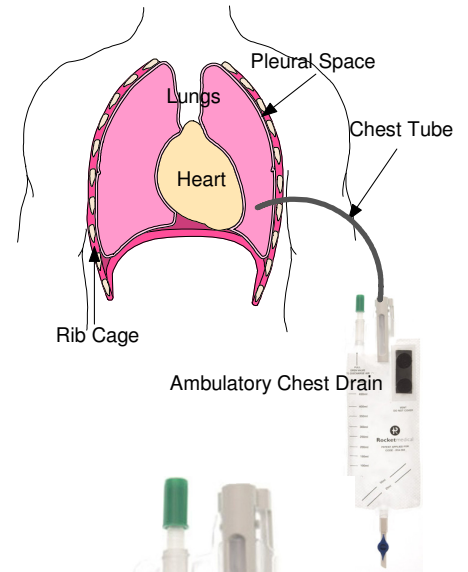
Caroline Ward, St Georges Hospital

Patient information – Chest drain

You have a chest drain inserted into the pleural space and attached to a Rocket® Medical Chest Drainage Bag. The bag will collect pleural fluid and allow air to escape from the cavity via a one way valve inside the bag

Care of the chest drain:

1. Observe the drain site daily for stability of the tube and to check for any signs of infection. Contact your doctor if you notice any changes.
2. Check for any air escaping around the chest drain site.
3. Cleanse and dress the drain site daily using a “cushion” dressing by placing gauze under and over the drain site and securing with mexif. Never use Elastoplast.
4. Do not remove the suture around the chest drain, it keeps the drain in place.



If the bag becomes disconnected:

1. Reconnect the bag to the drain as quickly as possible.
2. Take a deep cough to expel any air that has entered the pleural space.
3. Contact the ward - you may require a chest x-ray.

If the chest drain falls out

You **must** prevent air entering the pleural space by:

1. Sealing the wound with an air occlusive dressing, and
2. Contacting the ward or your local hospital Accident and Emergency (A&E) department. You will require a chest x-ray and medical attention.



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