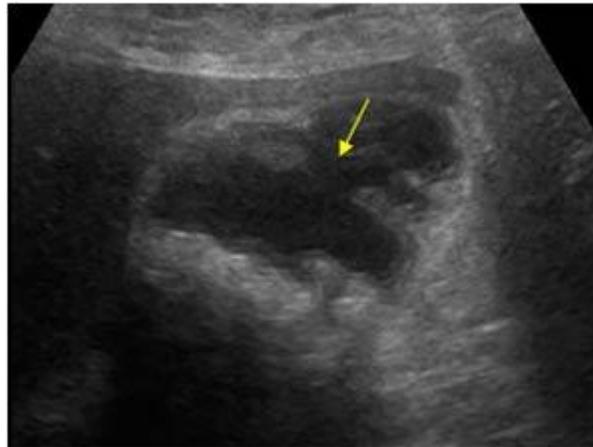


## Abscess Drain

### What is an abscess drain?

An abscess drain is the draining of the liquid component of an abscess. A small needle is used to go through the skin and into the fluid. Ultrasound is used to verify the location of the fluid collection to help the radiologist guide the needle safely into the fluid.



### How does the ultrasound work?

Ultrasound sends sound waves into the body using a transducer, a hand-held device that sends and receives sound waves. For the exam, the sonographer will apply warm gel to your neck and place the transducer against your skin to take pictures. When the sound waves reflect back to the transducer from inside the body, an image is created on the screen. Ultrasound does NOT use radiation.

### How should I prepare for the biopsy?

- You can eat prior to this procedure
- Do not take any blood thinners 5 days prior to the procedure (ie: aspirin, Coumadin, heparin, etc) If you are unsure of a medication, please call us at 206-386-3692.
- Wear loose-fitting clothing that is easy to take off and comfortable to wear in a bed

### How long will it take?

- 90 minutes

**Why would my doctor order this?**

- Redness and swelling of your skin
- Fluid collection visualized by ultrasound or CT

**What will happen during the exam?**

Before the procedure, you will have an ultrasound exam of the area of interest. You may be given a gown and need to get undressed in order to visualize the area of the abscess. You will lie on your back for the ultrasound and the procedure. The sonographer (technologist) will apply warm gel onto your neck and then he/she will place the transducer on your skin. By moving the position of the transducer they will obtain the images needed for the exam.

**What will happen during the procedure?**

You will lie on the bed on your back. Then the radiologist (ultrasound doctor) will numb the area where the needles will go. The numbing solution can sting when it goes into your skin. He/she will use the ultrasound to guide another needle with a syringe into the abscess. The fluid will be drained out into the syringe.

**How do I get the results of the exam?**

The test results of the drainage will go to your doctor who ordered the exam. Most of these results are available within a few hours; however, some may take longer.