

Abscess Drainage

An abscess is a pocket of pus that forms around an infection. Pus is a fluid made up of germs (**bacteria**), white blood cells, and other matter. Abscess drainage is a way of draining pus from an infected area or organ inside the body. This helps the infection heal.



During the Procedure

- You will change into a hospital gown and lie on an x-ray table. You may lie on your back, front, or side, depending on the site of the abscess.
- An **IV** (intravenous) line is put into a vein to give you fluids and medications. You may be given medication through the IV to help you relax.
- The skin over the abscess is cleaned. A local anesthetic is applied to numb the skin.
- Using **CT** (computed tomography), x-ray, or ultrasound images as a guide, the radiologist puts a needle through the skin and guides it to the abscess. The needle is then replaced with a **catheter** (thin, flexible tube).
- Pus drains from the abscess through the catheter. A bag or suction bulb will be attached to the catheter to hold the pus as it drains.
- The entire procedure may take 30 minutes or longer, depending on the location of the abscess.