

## Incision and drainage of Bartholin's abscess with word catheter

### Post-operative information

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#### What happens afterwards?

After your procedure you will be observed for some time on the gynaecology and women's surgery ward (M2). The nursing staff will co-ordinate your discharge. Before you can leave, you need to have passed urine.

A thin rubber tube has been inserted through a small cut made into the cyst or abscess. The tip of the catheter has a tiny balloon which is inflated to keep the catheter in place for three to four weeks. While the catheter is in place you can go about your normal activities. The aim is to prevent the opening from closing. As the tissues heal, it allows the cells to form a new tube (duct) over the catheter. It will be removed when you attend for review in three to four weeks; removal is painless.

#### Wound care

Once you get home, the following steps can help:

- Sitting in a soothing bath of warm water
- Keeping the area clean by regular use of a bath, shower or bidet
- Using a cool hair dryer instead of a towel for drying.

#### What advice do I need once I go home?

- You may be prescribed antibiotics to take home to reduce the risk of infection. It is important that you complete the course.
- You may experience some pain – if this occurs, you are advised to take normal pain relief, ie paracetamol, ibuprofen.
- Avoid swimming and intercourse for two weeks to reduce the risk of infection and allow the area to heal.

#### Contact us

You can call the ward for advice at any time on 020 8296 2150. If we feel you need to be examined, then we will advise you to attend your GP or A&E as appropriate.

#### Please contact your GP or A&E if you experience any of the following:

- Fever
- Any bleeding or discharge
- Redness or swelling to the area
- Increased pain, or
- Just feel unwell.

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