

PATIENT AND FAMILY
INFORMATION

CARE OF CHEST DRAIN ON THOPAZ PUMP



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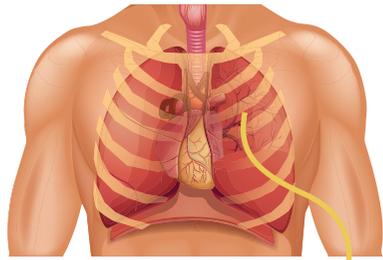
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What is a chest tube, and why do I need one?

A chest tube is a small tube inserted to remove air and/or liquid from the pleural space between lungs and chest wall.



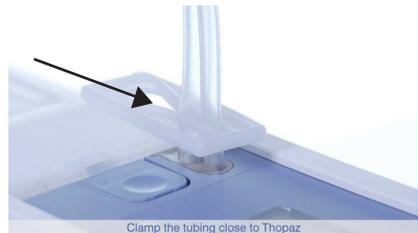
Chest tube

What is Thopaz and why is it needed?

Thopaz pump is a thoracic drainage system that is connected to the chest tube to monitor air leak before or after the surgery. It helps maintain the negative pressure in the pleural space to keep your lungs expanded.

How to take care of my chest tube?

- Ensure that your chest drain tubing is free from kinks and occlusions. Make sure the tubing is not pinched between bed rails or not beneath you.
- **DO NOT** touch the Thopaz canister or buttons at all times. If settings are accidentally changed, inform the staff nurse immediately.
- If the canister drops, use the tubing clamp (Figure 1) to clamp the drain and then call for assistance immediately.



Clamp the tubing close to Thopaz

(Figure 1)

Can I mobilise with the Thopaz? YES

Thopaz pump is a small, compact drainage system and it offers unrestricted mobility for the patient. Early mobilisation encourages quicker patient recovery after surgery.

- When mobilising with the Thopaz:
 - Ensure that you are feeling well.
 - Carry it upright by the handle (Figure 2), do not tilt nor shake.

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- When not mobilising, dock the Topaz pump to the charger at all times (Figure 3). Make sure the blue LED light is turned on and the battery indicator on the Topaz display panel confirms charging (Figure 4).



(Figure 2)



(Figure 3)



(Figure 4)

When do I inform the nurses/doctor?



- If the machine alarms with “beeping” sound.



- If you experience the following:
 - The dressing is wet or starts to peel off
 - The chest tube is dislodged from your chest
 - Severe pain
 - Difficulty in breathing

When will the chest tube be removed?

- The doctor will decide depending on your condition.
- Lesser drainage in the canister and zero air leak mean your lungs are improving.

What happens after the chest tube is removed?

Inform the nurses/doctor immediately if you experience the following after removal:

- Difficulty in breathing and chest tightness
- Increased puffiness/swelling over ex-chest tube site
- Wet or soaked dressing

The chest tube wound will be tied up with a suture. Remove the waterproof dressing after 48 hours of drain removal and clean the wound **daily** with soap and water and pat dry. The stitch will usually be removed after 1 week.

Location



Contact Information

National University Heart Centre, Singapore

NUH Main Building,
Wards 20, 28, 63 and 64
Kent Ridge Wing (NUH),
Ward 7A

Visiting Hours: 12pm to 8pm (Daily)

Website: www.nuhcs.com.sg

Getting to NUH

Circle Line Kent Ridge MRT Station

Commuters can transit at the Buona Vista MRT Interchange and alight two stops after at the Kent Ridge Station. The station is served by three exit-entry points.

Exit A: Right at the doorstep of National University Heart Centre, Singapore.

Exit B: Along South Buona Vista Road, which links to Singapore Science Park 1.

Exit C: Leads to NUH Medical Centre.



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