

## **CARING FOR YOUR BILIARY DRAINAGE TUBE**

### **If your tube is connected to a drainage bag:**

Bile made by your liver will drain into the bag attached to your biliary tube. You will need flushing supplies, dressing supplies, and drainage bags.

### **If your tube is clamped or capped off:**

Bile will not drain from the tube if it is clamped. The tube will not be connected to a drainage bag. Bile produced by the liver will drain through the tube into your intestines. You will only need flushing supplies and dressing supplies.

### **Basic care**

Your biliary tube should be secured to your flank and hip with tape at all times. This will prevent the tube from becoming dislodged. Your dressing should be changed every other day or sooner if it becomes wet or soiled. Keep the drainage bag below the level of the waist. This allows for proper drainage. The bag should not slip below your knee. You must flush your tube every other day as described below. During the day you may use a leg bag. Empty the bag daily. Clean the bag daily. Check your tube throughout the day to make sure your tube is not kinked. If the tube is kinked, it will block the flow of bile.

### **Changing your dressing**

You can shower with the tube in place. Make sure that you take your dressing off prior to showering. Before changing your dressing, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. You may choose to apply a small amount of bacitracin ointment around the tube site entry. Apply a 4 x 4 sterile gauze dressing around the tube entry site. Secure the dressing to the skin with paper tape. Secure the tube with tape to the flank and hip.

North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System  
NORTH SHORE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL  
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Department of Radiology

## **CARING FOR YOUR BILIARY DRAINAGE TUBE (continued)**

### **Supplies you may need at home**

- Alcohol wipes
- Paper tape
- 10cc syringes
- 18 gauge needles
- 4 x 4 sterile gauze pads
- 10cc vials of normal saline
- Extension tubing
- Leg bags
- Drainage bags
- Bacitracin ointment

### **Notify your physician if:**

- You meet resistance while flushing the tube
- No bile drains into the bag, if you have a bag
- You develop pain, swelling or discharge from around the tube entry site
- You develop nausea, vomiting, chills or fever
- The tube falls out

If you have any questions or problems, call 516-562-4835 from 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. For emergencies after hours, call 516-562-0100 and ask to have the Radiology resident on-call paged.