

Cultural Issues

PERFORMING PARACENTESIS

Paracentesis is the medical procedure by which pathological fluid is drained from a cavity subjected to medical investigation.

In a society in which medicine is patient-centered, this medical procedure is currently used so that the patient be treated in the best conditions, benefitting from the most advanced treatment methods and techniques.

World hospitals with modern equipment and well trained medical staff in adequate numbers are able to offer medical services at high standards to professionalism and the patients' feedback is positive. Serious illnesses are researched with advanced scrutiny: hepatic cirrhosis, heart failure, endocrine diseases, nephrotic syndrome, malnutrition, neoplasms, infections. All these require paracentesis in the process of establishing a certain diagnosis and an adequate treatment for the suffering patient.

This method requires doctors with experience in the procedure and rich knowledge of medicine. The doctor alone has the obligation and the right to perform it, in conditions of perfect hygiene, and the patient must be prepared in advance both mentally and physically.

Upon informing the patient of the necessity of the paracentesis, the patient is taken to a treatment room and instructed on the conditions required for the procedure. Lying still is absolutely necessary in order to avoid accidents (breaking the needle during the intervention or damaging the punctured organs). The doctor helped by two nurses carries out the paracentesis. If the protocol cannot be observed, the paracentesis should not be performed.

Topics for Forum:

- What obligations do the medical staff have towards the patient who suffered a paracentesis?
- Do you consider the paracentesis to be dangerous for the patient?
- How often are paracenteses performed in the hospital where you work?