

Suprapubic Catheter

What is a suprapubic catheter? Why do I need one?

If you cannot empty your bladder (pee) normally or you have very bad incontinence (are not able to control your bladder), you may need to have a catheter inserted (put in). A suprapubic catheter goes into your bladder through your lower abdomen (stomach area). It can be used instead of a urethral catheter (a tube into your urethra to let pee drain). The urethra is where pee comes out.

What will happen during the procedure?

- You will have local or general anesthetic. Local anesthetic numbs part of your body so that you don't feel any pain. General anesthetic means that you will be asleep during the procedure. Your urologist will decide which anesthetic is best for you.
- A cystoscope (a hollow tube with a lens to let the doctor see inside your bladder) will be placed into your bladder through your urethra. Your bladder will then be filled with water.
- The urologist will put local anesthetic into your abdomen and make a small incision (cut). You will then feel some pressure as they insert the catheter.
- The catheter will be held in place by a small balloon filled with water that sits in your bladder. The balloon keeps the catheter from falling out.

What are the possible risks?

- › infection
- › injury to the bowel
- › bleeding

What can I expect after the procedure?

- You may have a burning feeling in your urethra from having the procedure – **this is normal**.
- You will likely see a bit of blood in your urine (pee) – **this is normal**.
- Some drainage around the insertion site is normal. This will go away over time.
- You may have mild discomfort around the insertion site.
- The catheter will be changed every 6 weeks. The first change will be done in the hospital. After that, the changes will be done by VON in your home.
- Some people may continue to have pee leaking from their urethra.

If your catheter stops draining in the first 6 weeks after insertion, do not change the catheter without talking to your urologist first.