

Information sheet for Patients following insertion of Suprapubic Catheter

Following insertion of a suprapubic certain complications may arise on occasions.

Bleeding into the urine for a few days is common but the bleeding should be neither profuse nor prolonged.

Infection of the wound is more likely where the catheter was placed using an open incision of the abdominal wall. Signs of infection would normally include;

- Redness around the wound site, particularly if this is increasing
- Swelling around the wound site
- Tenderness of the wound site, particularly if it is getting worse
- The presence of pus coming from the wound site
- Fever or temperature, associated with a feeling of being unwell

A rare complication associated with “closed” insertion of a suprapubic catheter (i.e. where the catheter was NOT inserted using an open incision) is perforation of a loop of intestine. Signs of this include the following

- Worsening abdominal pain
- Fever or temperature
- Vomiting
- The presence of particulate matter (i.e. faeces) in the urine which drains into the catheter bag

These can happen without the presence of significant bleeding.

If you concerned about any of the symptoms above then please either

- Contact your GP urgently (He/She may arrange for you to be admitted back to the ward for observation, or may telephone your consultant for advice)
- In an emergency please attend the emergency department of the Peterborough City Hospital