

Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt (TIPS)

What You Need to Know and Do

Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt (TIPS) is a procedure that helps lower blood pressure in the portal vein. The portal vein is a large vessel. It carries blood from the intestine to the liver.

High pressure in the portal vein can cause heavy bleeding. Bleeding can lead to more serious problems, including death. It can also cause fluid to build up in the abdomen (ascites).

What should I do before my appointment?

You should not eat or drink anything 8 hours before the procedure.

You may take your routine morning medicine with small sips of water.

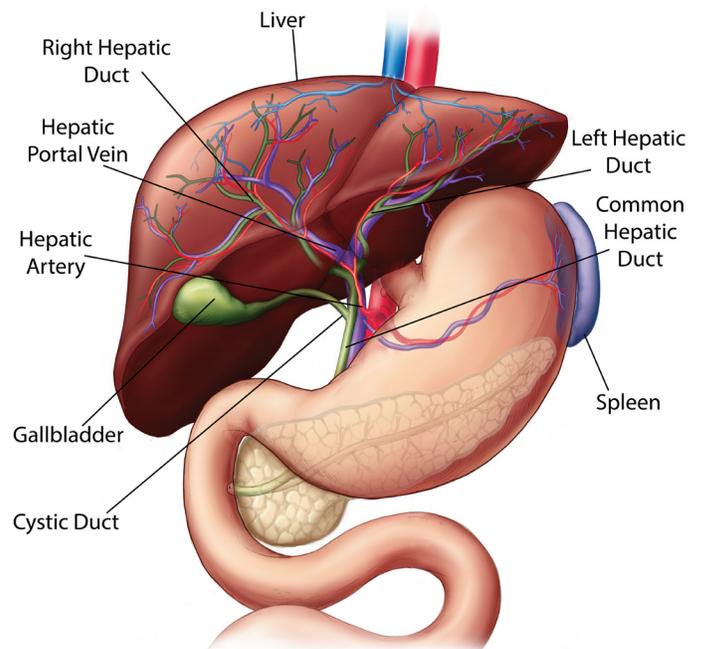
You will have an appointment with the anesthesia team before your procedure. They will give you an evaluation.

Be sure to tell the radiologist if you:

- are or think you may be pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding.
- are taking any medicines, especially blood thinners. This includes over-the-counter medicines such as aspirin or ibuprofen, and herbs, vitamins and other supplements.
- are allergic to X-ray dye (contrast) or other types of medicine.

When should I arrive for my appointment?

You will need to arrive at least 90 minutes before your appointment time to check in and complete paperwork.



How will I be prepped for the procedure?

When you arrive for your procedure, an IV (intravenous) line will be put in your arm or hand. This line will give you fluids and medicine to prepare your body.

You will be given general anesthesia. This means you will be asleep for the entire procedure.

After you are asleep, medicine will be injected into your skin. It will numb the area that will be cut.

(continued)

What happens during my test?

The doctor will make a small cut on the right side of your neck. The doctor will guide a needle (with a wire attached) into the vein in your neck.

X-ray dye will be injected into the vein. This helps the vein show up clearly on X-ray images. The doctor uses X-ray images for guidance.

The doctor will move the needle into a large vein in the liver called the hepatic vein. The needle is then pushed through the wall of the hepatic vein into the portal vein.

A small flexible tube (catheter) is then put into your vein. A metal mesh tube (stent) is moved through the catheter to the needle.

The stent creates a pathway between the 2 veins. This allows blood to flow from the portal vein, through the stent, into the hepatic vein. This will lower the blood pressure in the portal vein.

The needle and wire will be taken out. The catheter may be taken out right away or may stay in place for a day or longer. The stent stays in place to hold the pathway open between the veins.

The doctor will check to see if any veins are filling after the stent is in place. If so, they may choose to block the veins to limit the risk of bleeding.

What happens after my test?

You will stay overnight in order to make sure you have a good recovery. Your blood pressure and pulse will be watched closely for several hours after the procedure.

You will not be able to eat or drink for several hours.

You may need ultrasound exams every few months to check how well the procedure is working.

A follow up ultrasound exam will be scheduled 1 month after the procedure. The radiology coordinator will let you know when it is scheduled.

How active can I be?

- Do not drive for 2 days after your procedure.
- Do not lift more than 5 pounds for 1 week.
- Avoid strenuous activity for 1 week.

Who can I contact with questions?

For any questions, concerns or questions call Interventional Radiology at (615) 343-1972 or (615) 875-7982.

After hours (between 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, and on weekends and holidays), call (615) 322-5000 and ask for the Interventional Radiology Fellow on call.

If you have an emergency go to the nearest Emergency Room or call 9-1-1.