

OPEN RADICAL PROSTATECTOMY, ROBOTIC RADICAL PROSTATECTOMY

1. You will be discharged with a urinary catheter in place. It is critical that you make sure this catheter remains secured to your leg and does not get pulled on or disrupted.
2. Common catheter –related side effects include:
 - Feeling of urinary urgency and incomplete emptying.
 - Blood in the bag – blood in the bag is only a problem if the urine flow has stopped due to the thickness of the urine or blood clots passing. If you have been shown how to irrigate the catheter, this should be done if the catheter stops flowing. If you have not, you will need to contact the office or go to the emergency room to have it unclogged.
 - Urine leaking around catheter – this is ok as long as urine is also going into the bag. It is caused by spasms of the bladder due to the catheter and is not dangerous. There are some medications that can be given to reduce this, but it is possible that it could persist to some degree despite medications.
 - Swelling around the penis and scrotum is not uncommon with a catheter in place and will resolve once the catheter is removed.
 - It is ok to shower with a catheter in place.
3. Your individual surgeon will instruct you on when to come to the office to have the catheter removed (usually 10 to 14 days after surgery).
4. Some patients will be discharged home with a small external drain in place – instructions on managing this and having it removed will be given on an individual basis. It is not uncommon for some of the fluid to leak out around the base of the drain exit site from the body. This is normal and not a cause for concern.
5. For open prostatectomy, the wound will either be closed with absorbable suture or skin staples. Skin staples are usually removed 7 – 10 days after surgery. For laparoscopic robotic surgery, the small incisions will be closed with absorbable suture.
6. When the catheter is removed, there will be a “re-learning” period for urinary control. Your physician or the nurse will describe this in the office and will give you some exercises to do to strengthen the sphincter muscles. Some degree of urinary leakage is VERY common early on after catheter removal, even in patients who will eventually become completely continent.
7. Your physician may instruct you on use of Viagra, Levitra or Cialis erectile dysfunction medication in the early post-operative period.
8. Warning signs:
 - Severe and spreading redness of the incision.
 - Fever >101.5F
 - No urine output though the catheter
 - Inability to void after catheter removal
 - Severe abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting