

## Drainage of Bartholins Cyst/Abscess

### Information following your operation

You have just had a drainage of Bartholins Cyst/Abscess. The following advice is provided to help you avoid complications and to recognise them if they occur:

1. Do not try to do too much, rest when you get home. You should be able to resume normal activities after a day or so although the effects of the anaesthetic may make you feel tired.
2. Some discharge from the cyst/abscess site is common and may last for up to 10 days. Wear pads or panty liners.
3. You may shower as usual.
4. The cyst/abscess site should be kept as clean as possible after passing urine or a bowel action. It is advisable to rinse the area with clean, warm water and pat the area dry with a soft towel or dry with a hair dryer, on a cool setting, if more comfortable.
5. Avoid tight-fitting clothes and wear cotton or no underwear when at home if possible.
6. Sexual intercourse should be avoided until you feel comfortable.
7. The cyst/abscess area is usually sore after surgery – you may take Panadol®, Panadeine® or prescribed tablets for pain.

### An infection may be present if you have:

- A fever (temperature, chills)
- An offensive (smelly) discharge from the cyst/abscess site
- Localised pain in and around the vulval area not relieved by regular pain killers

Infection may be serious. Please see your GP, or contact the KEMH Emergency Centre on (08) 9340 1433 or your private doctor if you are unsure.

### Following a general anaesthetic

1. You must not drive a car or operate machinery for at least 24 hours.
2. You must not consume alcohol for 24 hours.
3. You should avoid any activity that requires the use of skill or judgement, for example delicate work, etc. for 12 hours.
4. You should avoid social engagements for 12 hours.
5. You should not make any important decisions or sign any important papers for at least 24 hours.
6. It is essential that someone stays overnight with you.

### Follow-up

It is important to visit your doctor or the Hospital clinic for a post-operative check-up.

Operation performed \_\_\_\_\_  
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Follow-up appointment \_\_\_\_\_  
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Special instructions \_\_\_\_\_  
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**WOMEN AND NEWBORN HEALTH SERVICE**  
 King Edward Memorial Hospital  
 374 Bagot Road Subiaco WA 6008  
 Telephone: (08) 9340 2222



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