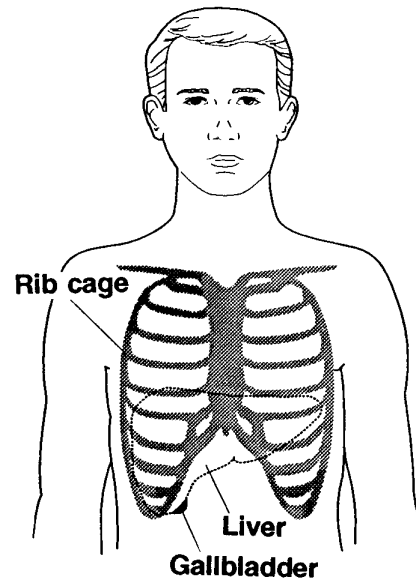


Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt (TIPS)

What is a TIPS Procedure?

You are scheduled for a TIPS, Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt, procedure. During this procedure, your doctor will place a small metal tube (called a shunt or stent) into a tunnel made in the liver, to help the blocked blood flow.

The adult liver weighs about 4 1/2 pounds. It lies in the right side of the upper abdomen next to the stomach. The rib cage covers most of the liver except that area just below the breastbone. Underneath the liver sits the stomach, large intestine, the right kidney and the gallbladder.



In a healthy liver, waste products are removed by a large amount of blood that flows through the liver. When a diseased liver becomes scarred, blood flow is blocked and waste products are not removed very well. The build up of waste products causes symptoms such as yellow skin and mental confusion. Blocked blood flow to the liver also can lead to abdominal swelling (ascites) or intestinal bleeding.

More on next page →

Learn more about your health care.

How do I prepare for the TIPS procedure?

Medicines:

- Ask your doctor if you should make any changes to your medicines before this procedure.
- If you take a blood thinner, such as Plavix, Coumadin or aspirin, you may need to stop the medicine before you have this procedure. Check with your doctor about when to stop the medicine.
- If you have diabetes and take Glucophage, also called metformin, or any medicine with metformin in it:
 - ▶ **Stop the medicine the day before the procedure.**
 - ▶ **Do not take the medicine for the first 2 days after the procedure.**
 - ▶ Restart the medicine on the third day after the procedure.
- If you have diabetes and take insulin, check with your doctor about adjusting your insulin dose the day of the procedure.
- If you have medicines to take the morning of the procedure, take them with small sips of water.
- Bring all of your medicines with you to the hospital if you are an outpatient.

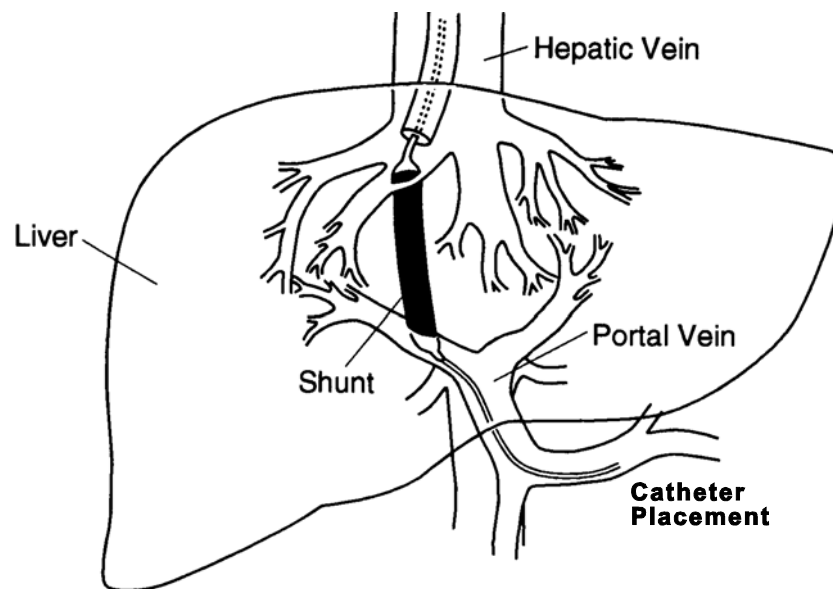
Other:

- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before the procedure.
- Tell your doctor if you are allergic to x-ray dyes, iodine or shellfish such as shrimp or crab.

How is the procedure done?

- A TIPS procedure is done in Interventional Radiology.
- This procedure can be uncomfortable so you will be placed under general anesthesia. The anesthesiologist will visit you before the procedure.

- Blood work will be done and an IV will be placed in your arm before your procedure. An antibiotic may be given to help prevent an infection.
- Your blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen level will be checked during the procedure.
- The doctor who will be doing the procedure, called an interventional radiologist, will talk to you before the procedure. The doctor will tell you about the risks and benefits of the procedure. The most common risks are bleeding and infection. If you have any questions or you do not understand what the doctor has said, please ask so they can answer your questions. The doctor will have you sign a consent form.
- Your neck will be cleaned with solution and then draped with sterile towels.
- The radiologist will place a catheter, or small plastic tube, into a vein in your neck.
- The x-ray equipment will be used to guide the catheter as it is passed into a vein in your liver where the tunnel will be made and the shunt will be located.
- The procedure will last 1-3 hours.



What care is done after the procedure?

After the procedure, the catheter is removed from your neck and a small dressing will be applied. You will be taken to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU). When you are fully awake and your vital signs are stable, you will be returned to your room. The nurse will take your vital signs often and will check to be sure there is no bleeding where the catheter was removed. You may feel some abdominal cramping for 24 hours after the procedure. Ask your nurse to give you medicine to make you more comfortable.

- **Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.**