Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt (TIPS)

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 ½ 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 and fluid (ascites), vomiting, and bleeding in veins of the stomach, esophagus or intestines where they are connected to the liver.
Preparing for TIPS

- Talk with your doctor about the medicines you take, including over the counter, vitamins and herbal supplements. Ask your doctor if you should make any changes to your medicines before this procedure.

- **If you take a blood thinner or medicine that thins your blood**, talk to your doctor about when to stop taking the medicine. Not talking to your doctor about this could result in your test being cancelled or rescheduled. These medicines include:
  - Aspirin (high dose)
  - Warfarin (Coumadin, Jantoven)
  - Aspirin with dipyridamole (Aggrenox)
  - Fondaparinux (Arixtra)
  - Cilostazol (Pletal)
  - Heparin
  - Clopidogrel (Plavix)
  - Prasugrel (Effient)
  - Dalteparin (Fragmin)
  - Ticlopidine (Ticlid)
  - Dipyridamole (Persantine)
  - Tinzaparin (Innohep)
  - Enoxaparin (Lovenox)

- **If you are 50 or older, you will need blood work done within 30 days of your procedure** Please check with your doctor’s office for instructions and lab orders.
  - If you have blood work outside of Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center, **bring a copy** of the results with you to your procedure.

- **If you have diabetes** and take Metformin or any medicines with metformin in it, do not take it the day of the test. **Restart the medicine at least 48 hours after the procedure, or as discussed with your doctor.**

- **If you have diabetes and take insulin**, check with your doctor about adjusting your insulin dose the day of the procedure.

- **If you take blood thinner medicines or have a blood disorder, you will need blood work on the day of the procedure.** Please get a lab order from your doctor.

- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the day before your procedure. If you have an afternoon appointment you need to have nothing to eat or drink for at least 4 hours before.
• **Have an adult with you to take you home.** For your safety, you may **not** drive yourself home, go home alone or use public transportation without someone to go with you.

• Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before the procedure.

   If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, tell the technologist before this procedure.

   Tell your doctor or the radiology technologist if you have an allergy to IV contrast medicines.

**Day of the Procedure**

This procedure lasts 1 to 3 hours and is done in Interventional Radiology. Check in on the 2nd floor of Rhodes Hall when arriving at the hospital.

• If you have to take blood pressure, heart, pain or anti-rejection medicines, take them with small sips of water. Wait to take all other medicines until after the procedure.

• Bring all of your medicines with you to the hospital if you are an outpatient.

• You will have general anesthesia for the procedure. 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. A small tube, called a catheter, will be placed to drain urine from your bladder for the procedure.

• 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 a special cleaning 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.

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.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the Interventional Radiologist office at (614) 293-2773. If your question or concern is after business hours, call (614) 293-8000 and ask for the on call Interventional Radiologist.

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.