

Major Trauma Discharge advice for adult patients who have sustained a pulmonary laceration

Aintree University Hospital 

NHS Foundation Trust

Major Trauma Centre
Lower Lane
Liverpool L9 7AL
Tel:0151-525-5980

What is a Pulmonary Laceration?

Pulmonary i.e. Lung Laceration i.e. cut

A pulmonary laceration is a cut to the lung tissue. This laceration can lead to air and or blood escaping into your chest.

How is the lung cut?

Pulmonary lacerations are caused in two different ways:

Penetrating: for example, a knife into the chest wall puncturing through the lung tissue cause a laceration.

Blunt: for example, an object hits the chest wall causing a rib fracture, which punctures the lung tissue

Signs and Symptoms:

Signs and symptoms of a lung laceration include:

- Pain
- Injury to your chest wall
- Difficulty in breathing

Diagnosis

A lung laceration is normally diagnosed on a CT scan of your chest.

Treatment

Most lung lacerations are managed without an operation. As a lung laceration is normally associated with air plus or minus blood in the chest a chest drain may be inserted into your chest to drain the air/blood from your lung cavity.

As a lung laceration can cause an ongoing leak of air there is times when the drain may need to stay in for a longer period than normal.

If there is a continual leak of air from the pulmonary laceration, an operation maybe indicated to repair the lung. This is a rare occurrence.

It is important that you do not miss any of your follow up appointments

Your surgeon will inform you prior to discharge if you will require a follow up in our Major Trauma or Emergency General Surgery Clinic to ensure that your injury is healing and for us to also monitor how you as a whole are recovering from your injury.

Sometimes if a patient is out of the area it may be that you are referred back to your local hospital for further follow up.

Who do I contact if I have questions or concerns?

- ✓ Major Trauma Nurse Coordinators:
Contact Hospital switch board on 0151 525 5980 and ask switchboard to bleep 5428. This service is available 7 days a week from the hours of 8 am to 8 pm.
- ✓ Major trauma ward manager
Vanessa Lownsbrough (0151) 529 8278
- ✓ Nursing staff on Major Trauma Ward:
Telephone number: 0151 529 6255

- ✓ During working hours 8am - 5pm Monday to Friday you can Contact the secretary and leave a message for the surgical team. 0151 529 4663
- ✓ If you think that your condition is serious then it is best to come straight to Aintree Accident & Emergency department*.
- ✓ Seek advice from your GP.

***When you come to the hospital please bring this and any other relevant discharge documents that you may have been given at the time of discharge to help the A&E doctors to decide your management.**



If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print, Braille, on audio tape or disk and in other languages on request. Please contact:

Tel No: 0151 529 2104

Email: interpretationandtranslation@aintree.nhs.uk