

# Following insertion of a Word Catheter to treat Bartholin's cyst

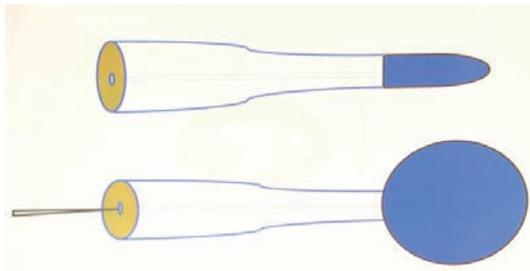


## Who is this leaflet for?

This leaflet is for women who have had treatment for a Bartholin's cyst / abscess using a Word Bartholin's catheter (tube into the wall of the cyst / abscess).

## How does the catheter work?

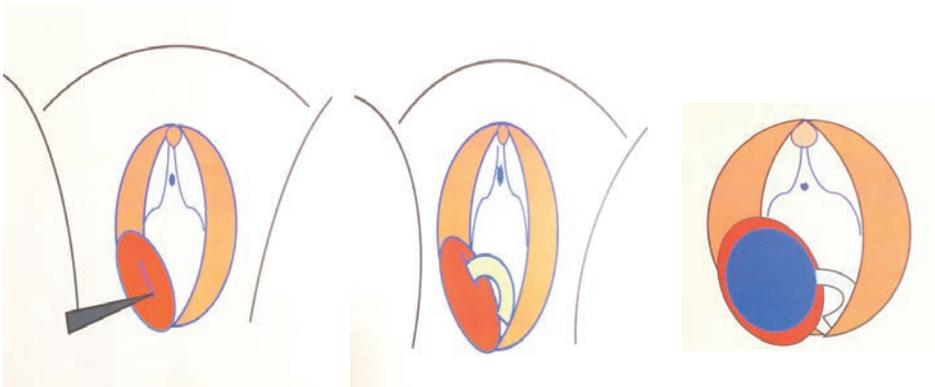
The catheter allows the cyst / abscess fluid to drain.



Word catheter – before and after inflation with sterile water or saline

## How does the catheter stay in?

There is a small balloon that is blown up with a small amount of fluid that sits inside the cyst wall. This stops the catheter falling out.



Word catheter inserted into the cyst / abscess cavity

## **Am I going to be sore when the local anaesthetic wears off?**

Yes, it is likely to be a little bit uncomfortable where we made the cut for a few days afterwards. You can take paracetamol and / or ibuprofen (unless you have been advised by your doctor not to). If you need any stronger painkillers, please see your GP.

## **How long does the catheter stay in for?**

The catheter stays in place for 4 weeks.

## **Why does it have to stay in so long?**

It has to stay in long enough for the skin to heal around the catheter. When the catheter is removed a tiny opening will remain and allow the gland to drain, hopefully preventing a cyst in the future.

## **Can I have a bath / shower with the catheter in?**

Yes, you can continue to wash as normal.

## **Can I have sex with the catheter in?**

Yes, as soon as you feel comfortable.

## **Can I use tampons for my period?**

Yes, you can continue as normal. Just be careful to pull on the tampon string when removing, not the catheter.

## **What happens if the catheter falls out?**

Sometimes, the catheter can fall out. If this happens, don't worry, give us a call on the numbers below and we'll arrange to see you again to put another one back in or talk about other treatment options if you prefer.

## **How is the catheter removed?**

We simply remove the fluid from the balloon using a syringe and gently pull the catheter out. This may cause very mild discomfort only.

Your follow up appointment in EGU is:

Date ..... Time .....

## **Any questions?**

If you have any other questions / concerns, please contact us:

### **The Emergency Gynaecology Unit (EGU)**

01872 252686 (Mon- Fri 09.00 – 17.00)

If we are unable to answer the phone, we are probably in the middle of seeing a patient, so please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

### **Eden ward**

01872 253163 (at other times)

Illustrations by Dr Rex Sote, RCHT

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690

