

Tays

## **Thoracentesis**

### **What is thoracentesis?**

Thoracentesis is a procedure where **a fluid sample** is drained from the **pleural cavity** with a thin needle. The aim of the procedure is to clarify the reason for fluid having accumulated in the pleura, as well as to relieve dyspnoea.

### **Preparation for the examination**

If you are using blood thinning medication (e.g. Marevan, Primaspan, Plavix, Aspirin, Asasantin), contact the Pulmonary Diseases Clinic, on number 03 311 63165.

Take a \_\_\_\_\_ break from \_\_\_\_\_ medication.

On the day of the procedure, you may eat and take other medicines normally. Blood samples will be taken from you either before or after the examination. The results obtained from blood and pleura samples will be compared, which facilitates the making of the diagnosis.

### **Course of the examination**

The puncture site is determined with thoracic ultrasound evaluation. At the beginning of the thoracentesis procedure the skin is cleaned and the area to be punctured anaesthetized. After the anaesthesia, the liquid located in the pleural cavity is removed by means of a needle and a syringe, and the required samples are collected. After the procedure, the injection spot is closed with folds. The duration of the procedure is approximately 15-20 minutes.

### **After the examination**

After the procedure, you should rest for approximately one hour, during which time your condition is monitored. If necessary, a thorax x-ray may be taken.

[The Tays website has a description of the treatment path of a patient for whom the bronchial procedure is performed.](#)

www.pirha.fi - asiakkaalle – hoitopolut -keuhkotoimenpidepotilaan hoitopolku (in Finnish).