

## Pleural effusion

When fluid builds up in the area between the lung and the chest wall (pleural cavity), you may experience shortness of breath, tiredness or pain. This is called a pleural effusion.

Symptoms may be relieved by:

- thoracentesis (pleural tap)
- pleurodesis
- indwelling pleural drains.

### Thoracentesis (pleural tap)

Fluid from around the lungs is drained out through a plastic tube inserted under local anaesthetic.

### Pleurodesis

If the fluid returns after you have had a pleural tap, your doctor may suggest a procedure called pleurodesis. A pleurodesis uses a medical powder to stick the lung to the chest wall to reduce the chance of fluid building up again. This is usually done under general anaesthetic.

### Indwelling pleural drain

If the fluid returns after you have had a pleurodesis, your doctor may consider placing a long-term draining tube into the space where the fluid is.

The tube remains in the space around the lung and is fixed to your skin with a dressing. The tube is connected to a small bottle that collects the fluid. You and your whānau will be taught how to care for this at home.