

# IVC Filter Retrieval

## **Why is it done?**

You have been ordered by your physician to have your IVC (Inferior Vena Cava) Filter removed. This filter was placed several weeks to months ago to prevent any blood clots in your legs from traveling up into your heart or brain. The follow up ultrasound testing done on your legs has determined that it is safe now to remove the filter.

## **How to prepare**

A nurse from the Radiology Department will call you the day before your scheduled procedure. They will instruct you on your arrival time to the hospital, when to stop eating and drinking and all other medication instructions. If you are allergic to Iodine or Iodine containing contrasts you will need to be ordered medications to take prior to your procedure to prevent any allergic reactions.

## **What to expect during the procedure**

The filter looks like an upside down umbrella with a hook at the top of it. The procedure to remove it requires the Interventional Radiologist to place a catheter into a vein in the right side of your neck. Through this catheter he will grab the hook at the top of the filter and collapse it to remove it from your body. This is a relatively painless procedure, however, you will receive

sedation and pain medication to keep you relaxed and comfortable. This procedure usually take 30 to 90 minutes.

### **What to expect after the procedure**

After the procedure you will have 2 hours of bedrest time with your head raised. A small dressing will be on your neck to cover the area. You are not permitted to drive for 24 hours due to the sedation medication, so please make sure you have arranged transportation to take you home after your procedure. At home for the first 24 hours you are to just rest. Then resume your normal activities as tolerated. Some mild pain and bruising may occur at the site. You can take over the counter pain medication or your usual pain reliever as directed. There are no follow-up appointments with the Radiologist unless you are having complications.