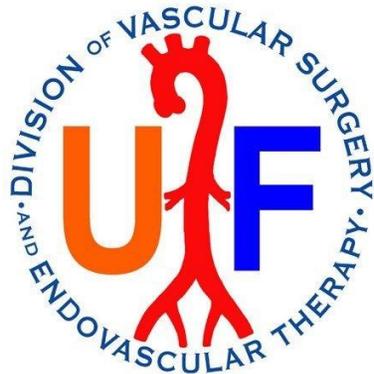


Did You Know?

Under 20% of retrievable IVC Filters are actually retrieved in the United States.

Talk to your provider today about your IVC Filter and get the information you need to schedule an appointment to get your filter recovered as soon as it is clinically indicated.



Health Science Center
PO Box 100128
Gainesville, FL 32610-0128

Phone: 352-265-9928
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Vascular Quality Initiative

Powered by 

Inferior Vena Cava (IVC) Filters



UF Academic Health Science Center

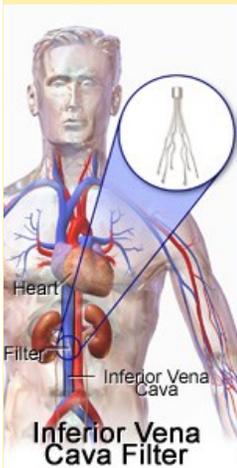
Learn what you need to
know about your
retrievable IVC Filter
today!



Tel: 352-265-9928

Inferior Vena Cava Filter

Your physician has recently placed a temporary filter into your inferior vena cava (IVC), a large vein that helps carry blood from your body to your heart. It is the vein that is circled on the picture of a human heart on the left.

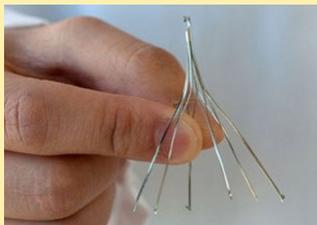


The filter has been placed using a sheath to reduce your risk of pulmonary embolism (PE), a blockage that can happen in the main artery of the lung or one of its branches. This blockage is commonly caused by a blood clot in the deep veins of the legs or pelvis that can break off and travel to the lung.

Your provider may have also put you on blood thinners as an extra precaution.

PE can be a serious condition, which is why your physician has placed an IVC Filter.

The filter can be placed in an operating room or at bedside. It is made from metal and is very small, as you can see from the life-size image.



How Does the Filter Work?

The filter traps clots before they have a chance to get to the lungs. For most patients, the risk of pulmonary embolus decreases over time after the inciting event that led to filter placement. Once the risk of pulmonary embolism is low enough, your doctor may recommend removal of the filter.

UF&Shands is working on a Quality Initiative to make sure every patient with a temporary filter has it retrieved **within 6 months of placement.** Your physician has scheduled a clinic appointment for you in 3 months to determine if you are ready for filter removal.

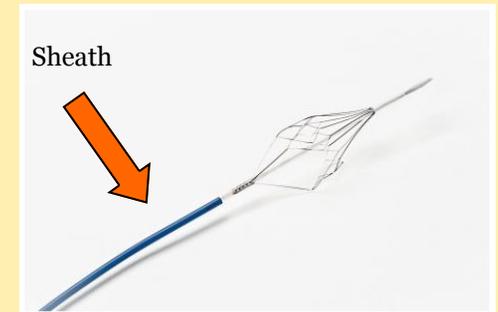
It is very important that you make this appointment, or reschedule as soon as possible if you are not able to. If you are unable to travel back to UF&Shands, your primary care physician may be able to schedule your filter retrieval with a local provider. In order to keep proper documentation of filter removal, please inform us if you have had the filter removed elsewhere.

You can call the patient access center at 352-265-9928 at any time if you have any questions or concerns.



What to Expect When Your Filter is Retrieved

IVC Filters are made so that once placed, they can be pulled back into the sheath and removed through one of your veins, usually one in your neck, the jugular.



The retrieval is generally done with light sedation, takes about 15-20 minutes and is a day surgery procedure.

If you are on blood thinners before your filter is retrieved, you may still need to use them afterward.



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