

Pleuroamniotic Shunting

Pleuroamniotic shunting is the placement of small plastic tubes into the fetal chest to allow the collected pleural (lung) fluid to flow into the amniotic sac and let the lungs expand and grow normally. The shunt is necessary because of an abnormal collection of fluid between the thin layers of tissue (pleura) lining the lung and the wall of the chest cavity. This fluid squishes the lungs and they cannot grow normally. The most common reason for a pleuroamniotic shunt insertion is for the treatment of a **chylothorax**.