



Having a cystogram

This leaflet explains what to expect when you come into hospital for a cystogram – an examination of your bladder. If you have any queries please call the Radiology Department on 0118 322 7991.

What is a cystogram?

This is a special X-ray examination to view the bladder. A special fluid (X-ray dye) is injected into the bladder via a small tube (catheter). You may already have a catheter in because you have had surgery and in this case, the fluid is injected through this tube. In some instances, we may require a specially trained radiographer to insert the catheter in the X-ray room. This is done by using some anaesthetic (numbing) jelly to insert the catheter into the urethra (the tube from the bladder) and then using this catheter the fluid is then injected into the bladder. It is this fluid that is seen on the X-ray pictures.

The examination is conducted by a radiologist (a specialist X-ray doctor) or by a senior radiographer (an X-ray professional) who has been specially trained to carry out this test.

What happens during the cystogram?

When you arrive at the X-ray Department, we will ask you to change into a hospital gown. You will lie on a couch in the X-ray room. A special fluid is then injected through the tube and a series of X-ray pictures are taken. When the X-ray pictures are complete, the test is finished. The examination should take 20 minutes in total.

On the day of your test

- Please bring your appointment letter with you.
- You can eat and drink normally on the day of your test.
- Please do not bring children with you. They will not be able to come into the room with you when you have the test and there are no childcare facilities.

After the cystogram

If we have inserted the catheter in the X-ray Department, we will remove this. If you already have a catheter in place, this is then removed in clinic (which may or may not be the same day). You will then be shown into a bathroom to clean up; the X-ray dye can be sticky. In there, you can get dressed and leave the department. You may have a clinic appointment for the same day, so you can attend once the examination has finished.

Are there any risks with this test?

This test involves X-rays. Every effort is made to keep radiation to a minimum.

The special fluid contains iodine. If you are allergic to iodine we may not be able to carry out the test, depending on the severity of your allergy, but we will discuss this with you.

Results

The radiologist or senior radiographer will prepare a report of your examination. The report will be sent to the doctor who arranged for the test to be done and they will give you the result.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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