

Interventional Urethrogram

Your doctor would like you to have an Urethrogram and has arranged for you to visit our department. We would like your visit to be as pleasant as possible and hope this leaflet will answer some of the questions you may have. Should you have any questions regarding your appointment please contact us on the appropriate telephone number below:

Eastbourne DGH Appointments: 01323 414917
Conquest Hospital Appointments: 0300 131 4500 ext. 147422

What is an Urethrogram?

An Urethrogram is a radiological examination to image the urethra (the tube that urine passes through from the bladder to the tip of the penis). The urethra can become narrowed due to trauma, infection or previous operations, and this test will show these narrowing's to guide future treatment.

Who will be doing the Urethrogram?

A specially trained doctor called a radiologist. They have particular expertise in performing procedures under image guidance. There will also be at least one specially trained nurse and a radiographer in the room during the procedure.

Where will the procedure take place?

This procedure will take place in the angiography suite within the x-ray department. This is similar to an operating theatre into which specialised x-ray equipment has been installed.

How do I prepare for an Urethrogram?

You will need to attend the radiology department in good time for your appointment

Take your medicines as normal unless your doctor or nurse tells you not to.

If you have allergies, you must let your doctor know. You must also tell your doctor if you have previously had a reaction to intravenous contrast medium, the dye used for certain x-ray and CT scans.

If you are taking warfarin or any other blood thinning medication, please call the interventional radiology department.

What actually happens during an Urethrogram?

Before the procedure, the interventional radiologist will explain the procedure, please feel free to ask any questions that you may have. Remember that even at this stage, you can decide against going ahead with the procedure if you so wish.

You will be asked to undress and put on a hospital gown. You will be asked to lie on the x-ray table. The doctor will put some local anaesthetic gel into the tip of the penis. A narrow tube called a catheter will then be inserted into the urethra (the opening through which you urinate). X-ray dye will then be injected through the catheter whilst x-ray images are taken. The X-ray

equipment may move around you to gain the best images. Occasionally you may be asked to urinate whilst the X-ray images are taken.

Once all the images have been taken, the catheter will be removed.

Are there any risks?

An urethrogram is a safe medical procedure, but there is always a small risk of complication

- There is a small risk of developing a urine infection. You should contact your GP if you experience pain, sweats or shivers or if your urine becomes discoloured or smells offensive in the days after the procedure.

Will it hurt?

There may be some discomfort when the catheter is inserted but this should disappear once it is removed at the end of the procedure.

How long will it take?

Every patient's situation is different and it is not always easy to predict how complex or how straightforward the procedure will be. However, the procedure should take about 20 minutes.

What happens afterwards?

Assuming all is well, you will be able to go home after the urethrogram is completed.

What should I do when I go home?

When you get home you should:

- Eat and drink as normal
- Continue with your normal medication as prescribed, and pain relief if necessary. If you take anticoagulants, restarting these will be discussed with you before you are discharged.

What do you do if I have a problem at home?

If you have severe pain or are concerned please go to your nearest emergency department.

When do I get my results?

The results will be ready for your consultant or GP within a day or two.

Sources of information

British Society of Interventional Radiology

Important information

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team – Tel: 0300 131 4500 Ext: 734731 or by email at: esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net

Hand hygiene

The Trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.

Tel: 0300 131 4500 Email: esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Reference

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:

Dr Mo Faris, Consultant Interventional Radiologist, ESHT
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The directorate group that have agreed this patient information leaflet:
Diagnostics, Anaesthetics and Surgery Division

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