



Cystogram

Information for patients

What is a cystogram?

A cystogram is an examination of the bladder under x-ray guidance. Using real time images and an x-ray dye, called contrast, the appearance of the bladder and how it fills can be assessed.

The clinician who sent you for this examination will have explained why you need it.

How do I prepare?

Most likely you will already have a bladder catheter in place. If this is the case there are no other special preparations required.

If you do not have a catheter already in place please contact the number provided for further information.

Please inform the team if you suffer from any allergies.

Your symptoms

If there have been changes in your health since you saw the doctor who sent you for this test please contact them to let them know.

Pregnancy

If you are, or think that you may be, pregnant please call us on 01737 231607 (Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4pm) and ask to speak to a radiographer or nurse.

Who will be there?

In the room there will be a radiologist and a radiographer.

What does it involve?

The procedure takes place in the X-ray department. We will provide you with a gown to change into and then take you into the X-ray room.

You will be asked to change into a gown and asked to lie on your back on the x-ray table. Your catheter will be clamped and the catheter bag removed. The radiologist will connect a tube to your catheter and slowly start injecting the x-ray dye. Whilst doing this they will screen with the x-ray machine to watch the bladder filling. They may wait a few minutes and then continue to inject more dye.

Once the bladder is completely full you may be asked to turn slightly onto either side so the radiologist can take some final pictures of the bladder at its fullest.

You should not experience any pain during the procedure but you may feel quite a strong 'fullness' in your lower pelvic region. If you do experience any pain please inform the radiographer or radiologist immediately.

How long will it take?

You can expect to be in the X-ray department for about half an hour.

After the examination

The doctor will empty the contrast out of the bladder and attach a new catheter bag, which we provide.

You will be asked to get dressed and then to go to the ward for the catheter to be removed and a trial without catheter (TWOC). The radiographer will inform you of which ward and how to get there, and the ward will be expecting you. This may take up to 4 hours and that will be decided by the team carrying out the TWOC.

You do not need to come back to the x-ray department after your TWOC.

Are there any risks?

Radiation

We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. Each X-ray examination gives us a small additional dose. Everything is done within the X-ray department to minimize this.

Contrast

There is a slight risk associated with the use of the iodine-based contrast agent which will be explained to you by the radiographer before you examination.

When do I find out the results?

If the examination was requested by your family doctor (GP) then the results will be sent to them. We aim to do this within five days.

If the scan was requested by a hospital consultant, the result will be sent to them and will be available at your next appointment.

Further Information

If you have any concerns about your examination please contact us (Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4pm) and ask to speak to a senior radiographer or nurse.

01737 768511 Ext 2956/6018

Contact Us

Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
Diagnostic Imaging Department
East Surrey Hospital
Redhill Surrey RH1 5RH
Tel: 01737 231604
www.surreyandsussex.nhs.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Telephone: 01737 231 958

Email: pals@sash.nhs.uk

Write to: PALS, East Surrey Hospital
Redhill, Surrey RH1 5RH

You can also ask a member of staff to contact PALS on your behalf.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats, including in larger text. Contact 01737 231 958 for help.

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