



Having a sialogram

This leaflet tells you what to expect during a sialogram – an examination of your salivary glands.

General advice

- Please bring your appointment letter with you.
- A health care assistant will greet you in the waiting area and may accompany you during the exam. The examination is conducted by a radiologist (specialist X-ray doctor) and a radiographer (X-ray professional).
- A relative or friend may usually accompany you; however, they will need to wait in the waiting room. There are no childcare facilities available.

What is a sialogram?

This examination is to look at your salivary glands. This is usually because you have swelling or a difficulty in producing saliva.

Are there any risks with this test?

You will be asked before the test whether you suffer from any allergies, in case you are allergic to elements in the contrast (dye) used. If this is the case, an alternative contrast would be used.

What happens during the sialogram?

A tiny blunt-ended tube is put into the opening of the duct in your mouth. A special fluid is injected through the tube and a series of X-rays is taken. The examination should not be painful but may be a little uncomfortable. It will take about half an hour.

After the sialogram

The injected fluid may leave an odd taste in your mouth for a short time, but this will soon disappear. You may eat and drink as normal.

Results

A report of your examination will be sent to your referring doctor; if this is a hospital specialist, then the specialist will contact your GP with the report.

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

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