

Having a dacrocystogram (DCG)

Introduction

The examination is conducted by a radiologist (specialist X-ray doctor) and a radiographer (X-ray professional).

A relative or friend can accompany you, although for safety reasons they may have to wait in the waiting area during the procedure. No childcare facilities are available.

What is a dacrocystogram

A dacrocystogram is a test which involves placing a small blunt ended tube into the opening of the tear duct of the eye, and injecting an x-ray contrast fluid, which shows on X-rays, through the tube.

Why do I need this test?

This test is to check whether your tear ducts are blocked.

How long will it take?

The examination takes 15 to 20 minutes.

Preparation

Please bring with you: your appointment letter.

Please do not wear eye make-up or contact lenses.

What happens during the dacrocystogram?

You will have a local anaesthetic in the form of eye drops put into the eye. A tiny tube is put into the opening of the tear duct in the inner corner of your eye. An x-ray contrast fluid, which shows on X-rays, is injected through the tube and x-rays are taken. The examination should not be painful, but may be a little uncomfortable.

After the dacrocystogram

Due to the anaesthetic in your eye you should take care not to rub the eye until this has worn off. It should not affect your vision, but you may wish for someone else to accompany you home.

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.

Are there any risks with this test?

This test involves x-rays. The amount of radiation is kept to a minimum.

This test should not be performed if there is any chance you might be pregnant as radiation is potentially harmful to the baby.

If you weigh over 31stone or 197kg please contact us.

Further information

More information is available on the Trust website visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

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