

Having a myelogram

Introduction

You should have only a light breakfast on the morning of your appointment.

Please bring your appointment letter with you.

A health care assistant or nurse 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 can usually accompany you; although they will have to wait in the waiting area during the examination, however, no childcare facilities are available. You may be admitted to the X-ray recovery bay following this examination.

What is a myelogram?

A myelogram is a test to look at the cord in your spine which contains all the nerves. As you are unable to have a magnetic resonance image (MRI) of your spine, usually due to a pacemaker, this test is done with computerised tomography (CT) and fluoroscopy.

Are there any risks with this test?

You will be asked whether you suffer from any allergies prior to the test.

What happens during the myelogram?

You will be asked to change into a hospital gown. You will then have a small injection of local anaesthetic in your lower back. A small needle is then placed into the covering of your spinal cord and contrast liquid that shows on X-rays is injected while X-ray pictures are taken. Occasionally, you may be asked to wait in the recovery bay to allow the injected contrast to move around your spinal cord. You will then have the CT part of the examination. During the examination, a series of images are acquired by the scanner. The CT scanner consists of an X-ray tube that rotates around your body. You will usually be moved continuously through this rotating beam. The X-rays will be analyzed by a detector on the opposite side of your body.

After the myelogram

After the CT scan you may be asked to wait in the recovery bay while the radiologist looks at your pictures. You may need to wait if further pictures are required, but you can usually

go home afterwards once the radiologist has seen the scans. You are able to drive yourself home from your appointment if you wish to.

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.

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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