

Having a fistulogram

What is a fistulogram?

The doctors have referred you to have a haemodialysis fistulogram – a special x-ray to look at the blood vessels of your fistula. This will help us to see why it is not working satisfactorily or not developing as well as it should.

The fistulogram will be performed in the x-ray department and usually takes approximately 30 minutes. Occasionally, your appointment may be delayed if there are any emergencies in the x-ray department.

What will happen?

You will be taken into the x-ray room and asked to lie on the x-ray table. The table is a little high so there is a step to help you. The radiologist (the x-ray doctor) will put a cannula (a small needle) into your fistula vein. Through this a special dye called 'contrast' will be given, to allow your blood vessels to show up on the x-rays. If you are allergic to iodine please let your nurse know as soon as possible.

Whilst the x-ray pictures are being taken, the machine will move above your arm and will make some clicking noises as it is moved. It is essential that you keep still whilst the pictures are being taken. There will be x-ray staff in the room with you throughout the procedure. They will wear special aprons to protect them from the x-rays that they are frequently exposed to.

Are there any side effects?

Some people do notice that they feel hot when the contrast is given or they experience a strange taste in their mouth. Both these symptoms pass quickly and are not anything to worry about.

If you are a pre-dialysis patient or a CAPD patient that passes more than about a cupful of urine a day, then you will require some additional care to protect your remaining kidney function from the contrast (dye). If this applies to you, please see the enclosed letter for full details.

You can eat and drink normally before and after the procedure. The fistulogram will not affect your driving if you are driving yourself to the appointment.

When will I get the results?

Once the procedure is complete, the cannula will be removed from your arm and you will be able to get up and leave. It is unlikely that you will be given any results at the time as the x-rays will need to be studied and a report written. This will be sent to the doctor requesting the fistulogram and they or the vascular access nurse will discuss this with you. Please contact the nurses in the area relevant to you (see contact list below). It will be a few days before the results become available.

What if I have any questions?

If you have any questions or concerns; or if you require hospital transport, please contact the nurses in the area relevant to you.

Pre Dialysis	Tel 0118 322 7899
CAPD	Tel 0118 322 8555
Benyon Haemodialysis Unit	Tel 0118 322 8360
Bracknell Dialysis Unit	Tel 01344 662961
Huntley and Palmer Dialysis Unit	Tel 0118 322 8515
Windsor Dialysis Unit	Tel 01753 866008
Enborne Dialysis Unit WBCH	Tel 01635 273640

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

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