

Radiology department

Cholangiogram

Introduction

This leaflet tells you about the procedure known as a cholangiogram. It explains what is involved and what the benefits and risks are. It may make you think of things you would like to discuss with your doctor.

What is a cholangiogram?

It is a short procedure that will be carried out in the radiology department by a radiologist. The purpose of the procedure is to check the drain that has been inserted into your liver is in the correct position and not blocked.

Why do I need a cholangiogram?

This may be an ongoing part of your treatment to assess the need for further procedures or can be to check that your catheter is in the correct place and is working as it should.

Who has made the decision?

Your doctors and the radiologist doing the cholangiogram will have discussed your situation and feel this is the best treatment option.

What to tell the doctor

- If you have any allergies.
- If you have had a previous reaction to intravenous contrast medium (the dye used for some X-rays and CT scanning).

Agreeing to treatment

We will ask you to sign a consent form agreeing to accept the treatment that you are being offered. The basis of the agreement is that you have had The Christie's written description of the proposed treatment and that you have been given an opportunity to discuss any concerns. You are entitled to request a second opinion from another doctor who specialises in treating this cancer. You can ask your own consultant or your GP to refer you. Your consent may be withdrawn at any time before or during this treatment. Should you decide to withdraw your consent then a member of your treating team will discuss the possible consequences with you.

Who will be doing the cholangiogram?

A specially trained doctor called a radiologist will carry out the procedure. Radiologists have special expertise in using X-ray and scanning equipment, and also in interpreting the images produced. They need to look at these images while carrying out the procedure.



Where will the procedure take place?

In the Integrated Procedure Unit (IPU) in the special X-Ray procedure room

How do I prepare for a cholangiogram?

There is no preparation required for this procedure.

What actually happens during the procedure?

A special liquid called contrast or dye which shows up on X-ray is injected into the tube. As the contrast is injected down the tube and into your body X-ray pictures are taken so the Radiologist can check the tube is in the correct place.

Will it hurt?

This is not usually a painful procedure. If you experience any discomfort, there will be a nurse in the room with you who you can tell.

How long will it take?

The procedure will take usually between 10 and 20 minutes.

What will happen after the procedure?

If you have come for this procedure as an outpatient you will be able to go home straight away. If you are an inpatient you will be sent back to the ward and no special after care will be required. A further appointment will be made at a later date if any more treatment is required.

What are the risks and complications of the procedure?

Rarely patients have an allergic reaction to the contrast dye used in the procedure. Medications are available in the department if this does happen to occur. **If you have had a previous reaction to intravenous contrast medium (the dye used for some X-rays and CT scanning), please inform the Radiology department before your appointment.**

Further information

This is available from the radiology department on the phone numbers below or from the following websites:

Macmillan Cancer Support: www.macmillan.org.uk

British Society of Interventional Radiology: www.bsir.org

If you have any problems or worries please contact:

From 9am to 5pm:

Radiology department on **0161 918 2346**

Out of hours and weekends (for emergencies):

Ring The Christie on **0161 446 3000** and ask for the on-call radiologist.

The Christie Hotline: **0161 446 3658** (24 hours)

Notes:

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week