



Radiology department

Contrast Enema

What is a contrast enema?

Contrast dye is injected through a tube and series of x-rays are performed to examine your lower bowel.

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. **Please contact the department prior to your appointment if you are allergic to contrast dye.**

Preparation for a contrast enema:

There is no preparation required for this procedure.

What actually happens during the procedure?

You will be asked to put on one of our x-ray gowns. A small tube is placed into the back passage and some dye is passed into the bowel. X-rays will then be taken, during which time we will ask you to move into various positions. The test takes 10-15 minutes. No special diet or laxatives are normally needed.

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, no special after care will be required.

Are there any side effects?

Generally there aren't usually any side effects. Occasionally you may notice an increase in the amount of material passed from the back passage after this test. Occasionally the water soluble contrast substance (iodine or X-ray dyes) may cause some diarrhoea.

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/patients

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

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

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.

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **patient.information@christie.nhs.uk**

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For more information about The Christie and our services, please visit **www.christie.nhs.uk** or visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford.

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