



Radiology department

Nephrostogram

Introduction

This leaflet tells you about the procedure known as a Nephrostogram. 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 nephrostogram?

A nephrostogram is a procedure where X-Rays are used to assess if your nephrostomy tube is in the right place and/or working effectively. The Doctor can also assess the tube (ureter) connecting your kidney and bladder.

Why do I need a nephrostogram?

It will help to provide a diagnosis of abnormalities of the kidney and ureters. The results of this test will help your doctor to plan the best treatment for your condition.

Agreeing to treatment

A Doctor will discuss the procedure with you and will ask you to verbally 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 test and that you have been given an opportunity to discuss any concerns. Your consent may be withdrawn at any time before or during this test. Should you decide to withdraw your consent then a member of your treating team will discuss the possible consequences with you.

Who has made the decision?

Your doctors and the radiologist who inserted the nephrostomy will have discussed the situation and feel this is the best treatment option.

Who will be doing the nephrostogram?

A Radiologist (specialist doctor) will carry out the procedure. Radiologists have special expertise in using x-ray and scanning equipment, and also in interpreting the images produced.

Where will the procedure take place?

In the Radiology department (x-ray department), in the special procedure room.

How do I prepare for a nephrostogram?

You **must** let your doctor know if you have:

- any allergies or
- a previous reaction to intravenous contrast medium (the dye used for kidney x-rays and CT scanning)

We will ask you to put on a hospital gown.

What actually happens during the nephrostogram?

You will be taken into a special X-ray room and will be asked to lie down (preferably on your front where possible). Your nephrostomy drainage bag will be removed and your nephrostomy tube will be connected to a syringe filled with contrast (X-ray dye). The Doctor will inject the contrast as X-ray pictures are taken. The contrast allows the Doctor to be able to see the position of your nephrostomy tube, your kidney, your ureter and your bladder. When the Doctor has all the pictures required, the drainage bag will be replaced.

Will it hurt?

You may have some sensation of the dye going into your kidney. This is usually painless. If there is a blockage in the ureter it is possible that you may feel some discomfort. If this happens you should let the Doctor know.

There is no need for anaesthetic for this procedure.

How long will it take?

It is not possible to predict how straightforward or how complicated the procedure may be as each patient's situation is very different. We estimate, as a guide that the procedure will take between 10 and 20 minutes. We ask that you should expect to be in the X-ray department for about 30 minutes.

What will happen afterwards?

You should be able to go home straight after the procedure.

What are the benefits of the procedure?

A nephrostogram can assist in the diagnosis of abnormalities of the kidneys and ureters. Your Doctor will use the results to plan the best treatment for you.

Are there any risks or complications?

It is very rare that complications occur as a nephrostogram is a very safe procedure. However, complications that may arise would include infection and discomfort. The Doctor will discuss these complications when you come for the procedure.

What happens next?

The Radiologist will write a report which will be sent to your Doctor.

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

