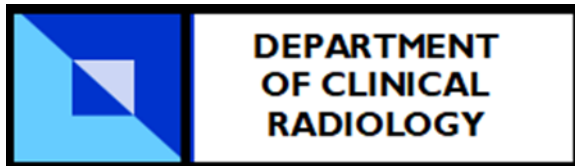


Myelogram/Cisternogram

Information for patients



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What is it?

A **Myelogram** is performed if you are unable to have an MRI scan, for example, if you have metal implants in your body or suffer from claustrophobia. It is an X-ray examination of your spinal cord and the nerves from your spinal cord.

A **Cisternogram** is an x-ray examination of the flow of the fluid around your spinal cord.

What does it show?

A Myelogram will highlight conditions affecting the spinal cord and the nerves within the spinal canal and help with the treatment plan.

A Cisternogram is used to demonstrate a potential leak of cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) which circulates normally in the space that surrounds your brain and spinal cord.

Do I need to prepare for the test?

There are certain things that we need to know about you before the day of the test. For example, if you take blood thinning tablets (Warfarin or Clopidogrel). We also need to know if you are Diabetic and take oral medication.

There is no need to fast for this procedure but perhaps a light breakfast is advisable.

Your procedure

There is fluid-filled space around the spinal cord into which a fine needle is inserted.

The doctor will inject contrast or 'dye' into this space. The needle is then removed and a series of X- rays are taken of your spine. You will be asked to adopt different positions, such as lying on your back, and then on your side. If you are unable to move on your own our staff will help you.

The procedure is performed under local anaesthetic so you should not be uncomfortable. You will then be taken to the CT scanner where we will scan the area that is being investigated.

Who performs the test and how long will it take?

The examination is performed in the Radiology department by a Neuro-Radiologist. They will be assisted by a Nurse and a Radiographer. The actual Myelogram/Cisternogram will take approximately 30 minutes. They may then be a pause of around 20 minutes to allow the dye to circulate and then and you will require a CT scan afterwards to see more detail.

Once you arrive at the day bed area you will be asked a list of questions from our checklist to ensure you are safe to continue with the procedure. Please bring a list of your current medication with you.

You will be asked to change into a gown and will be taken down to the X-ray department, possibly on a trolley if you are required to lie flat for a while until you have your CT scan.

What happens after the test?

You will be taken back to the day bed area and asked to sit for approximately 2 hours. During this period we will ask you to drink plenty of fluids to 'flush' out the 'dye'. It is best to stay sitting upright/ walking or standing for the rest of the day as lying down can give you a headache caused by the 'dye'. If you do get a headache, it is fine to take pain killers such as Paracetamol.

Please arrange for someone to pick you up as you must not drive home following your test.

Patient transport

Patient Transport will only be made available if you have a medical/clinical need.

Telephone **0300 123 1236** (calls charged at local rate) up to 28 days in advance to book, making sure you have your CHI Number available.

Hard of hearing or speech Impaired? Use text relay: **18001-0300 123 1236*** (calls charged at local rate).

To cancel patient transport, telephone **0800 389 1333** (Freephone 24 hr answer service).

If you have any questions
regarding your test, please
contact the DCN
Interventional Team:
0131 312 0863