

URETHROGRAM

What is it?

A urethrogram is the study of the male urethra (water pipe) to show any narrowing, using an x-ray (fluid contrast), which is injected through a small tube into the urethra.

What preparation is needed for the examination?

There is no special preparation required for this examination.

What exactly happens during the examination?

When you arrive in the Department either a radiographer, radiographer's helper or nurse will take you into a cubicle to get you changed for the examination. They will then take you into the x-ray room, where they will explain the examination to you. Please feel free to ask them any questions you may have. The examination is performed by a Consultant Radiologist (doctor) and they will discuss your clinical history with you. You will be required to lie on the x-ray table and a small tube is passed into the end of the penis. Then some x-ray fluid will be slowly injected into the urethra, while the doctor watches this on a TV monitor and some x-ray films are taken. Occasionally, some patients may require a dose of antibiotics (Gentamicin), given either intravenously or intramuscularly, while you are in the Department, to prevent you contracting an infection.

Does this procedure hurt?

The procedure may be uncomfortable but is not painful and the examination is very safe.

How long will it take?

The examination takes approximately 15 minutes but you should expect to be in the Department for up to 45 minutes.

When will I get my results?

When you have had the examination, the radiographer will tell you how and approximately when you will get the results but they are usually sent to the doctor who referred you to us within 48 hours.

Aftercare

Usually there are no side-effects but occasionally some patient's experience blood in the urine in the 24 hours following the examination. Should this occur, you should drink plenty of water to flush the system.

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Department of Radiology
The Princess Grace Hospital

