

VARICOCOELE EMBOLISATION

What is it?

Varicocoele embolisation is a simple method for treating varicocoeles, which are swellings of the testicular veins and the scrotum. It's main advantages are that it does not require an operation, it can be done as an out-patient procedure in most cases and has a good success rate (over 90% of cases can be treated by this method).

What preparation is needed for the examination?

Please do not eat anything for four hours prior to your appointment time. You can, however, drink clear fluids up to the time you arrive. If you suffer from asthma, you must inform the doctor or nurses prior to your appointment date as you may be required to take some steroid drugs before your appointment date. If you are a diabetic and taking Metformin (Glucofage) tablets, you must also inform the doctor and radiology nurses in advance. Your doctor will need to do a blood test on you (Prothrombin time and Platelets) and we will need the results prior to your appointment date.

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.

The area of your groin will be cleaned and then

draped with sterile drapes. A local anaesthetic injection will be given and then a small needle is inserted into the femoral vein, located in the groin area. Small tubes and wires which are used to occlude the blood vessels (embolisation) are inserted via the needle through this vein and are used for the embolisation. You will be asked to stay in the x-ray room for approximately 1/2 hour after the procedure to recover.

Does this procedure hurt?

The procedure may be uncomfortable but should not be painful. You are given local anaesthetic prior to the procedure but intravenous sedation can be given if this is felt necessary.

How long will it take?

You will be in the Department for approximately 1 1/2 hours. However, if intravenous sedation is used, you may be required to stay in hospital for 4 - 6 hours.

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

Following the procedure, you must not drive yourself home. Once at home, strenuous activities (eg, sport, driving, heavy work or lifting) are to be avoided for the rest of the day. Work and normal activities can be resumed the following day.

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