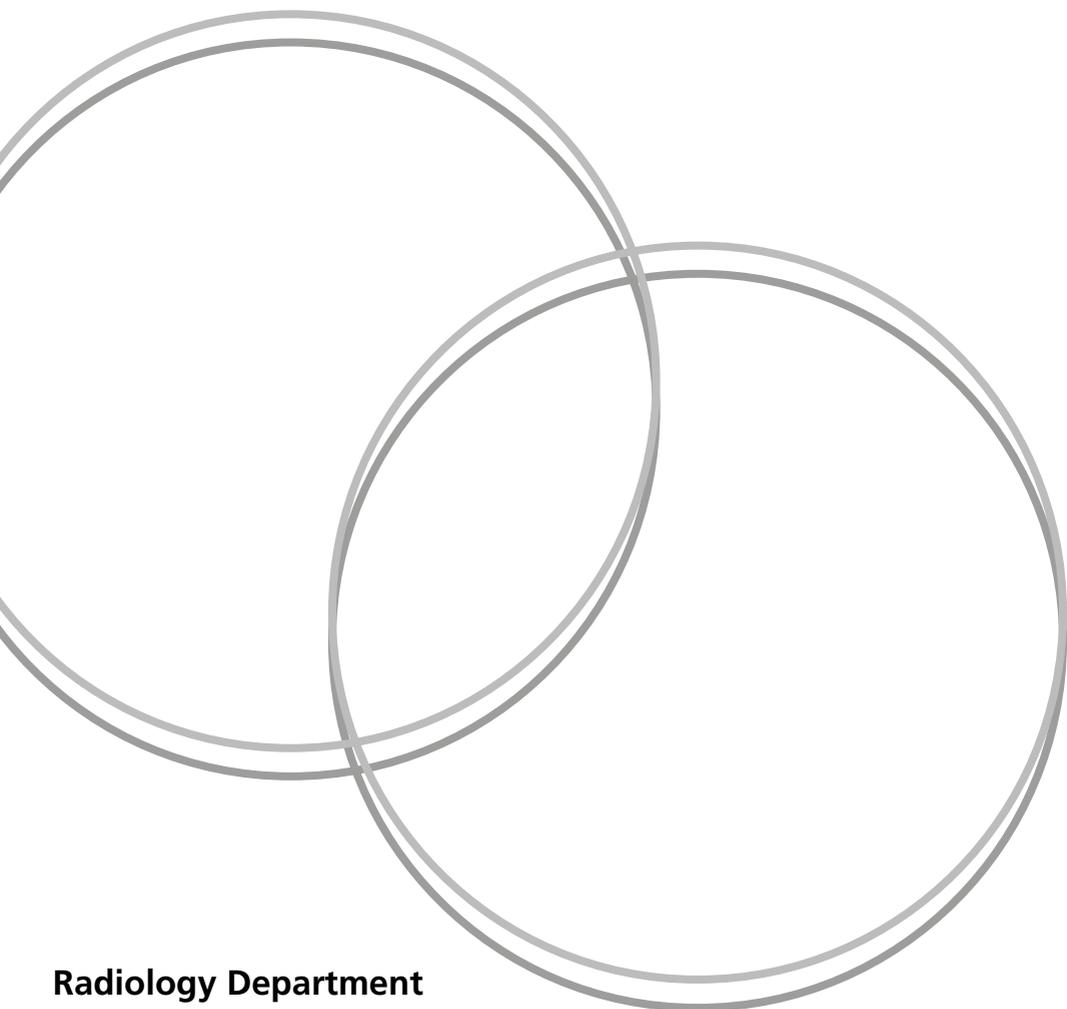




Oxford University Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Vaginogram examination

**Information for patients**



**Radiology Department**

## Vaginogram examination

The X-ray department has received a request for you to have a Vaginogram examination. This leaflet tells you the purpose of the examination, what's involved and what the risks are. We will also send you an appointment letter which will tell you where to go for your appointment.

- If you cannot attend your appointment, please let us know **as soon as possible**. Please telephone us on the number on the front of your appointment letter.
- For people between the ages of 12-55 years it is important to carry out this examination within 10 days of the start of your menstrual cycle (period). This is because the examination should usually be performed when we can be sure that you are not pregnant. If the appointment date does not fall within this time please telephone for another appointment. (If you are using contraception i.e.: pill, injection or the coil which is within its recommended dates or not missed a pill dose, this is sufficient for the pregnancy form).
- If you weigh more than 196kg or 31 stone, please tell us immediately.

**If you need hospital transport to reach the hospital, please arrange this with your GP prior to the appointment.**

You can contact us on: **01865 228944**  
(9.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday)

Contact details are also on the front of your appointment letter.

## **What is a Vaginogram examination?**

This is an X-ray test to see whether there is a leak from your vagina (front passage) to the bladder or bowel. A small tube is inserted into your vagina and dye injected as pictures are taken.

## **Can I bring a relative or friend?**

Yes, but for reasons of safety they will not be able to accompany you into the X-ray room except in very special circumstances.

## **Are there any risks?**

Exposure to radiation: This is a low dose examination and the amount of radiation is kept to a minimum. This is equivalent to the amount of background radiation that you naturally receive over 3-4 months.

Your doctor has recommended this examination because they feel that the benefits are greater than the risk of not having the examination. Even so, this test cannot be guaranteed to detect all abnormalities.

## **Alternatives**

There are no alternatives to this procedure.

## **What happens at home before the examination?**

No special preparation or special dietary is needed before the examination, but you may want to buy some pantyliners because you may get some leakage of sticky dye after the test.

## **What happens during the examination?**

The procedure usually lasts about 30 minutes but you may be at the hospital longer if we need to see emergency patients.

You will be asked to change into a hospital gown to make sure that no metal coins/objects are seen on the pictures. Please take off underpants too. If you need to go to the toilet you should also do this before the test begins.

You will lie on an X-ray table and a small plastic tube will be put inside the vagina. This tube has a balloon on it, which is blown up with air to try to prevent the dye leaking out. X-rays are taken as the dye is injected. You will be asked to turn onto your side for more pictures. Often, some of the dye does leak out so you will be given wipes and a towel to wash yourself after the procedure if desired.

## **Side effects and what happens after the examination?**

You can go to a cubicle to wash of the sticky dye and get dressed. More dye may leak out over the next few hours.

## **When and how will I know the result of the examination?**

The pictures of your abdomen will be examined by a radiologist, who will then send a report of the results to the doctor who referred you.

- If your GP referred you the report is sent to them and you can make an appointment to see them 10 days later.
- If a doctor/consultant from the outpatient department referred you then the result will be sent out in time for your next outpatient appointment. If you do not yet have another outpatient appointment and do not hear anything within three weeks, you should telephone the consultant's secretary for advice.

## **Questions or concerns**

If you have any questions you can telephone us on the number on the front of your appointment letter.

## **Further information**

Further information can be found on the following websites:

[www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/forpatients/departments/departments.aspx](http://www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/forpatients/departments/departments.aspx)

[www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)

**If you are unable to keep your appointment, please help us by contacting the Radiology appointments team as soon as possible. Your appointment slot can then be given to someone else, and you will be offered an alternative date and time.**





## Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
[www.ouh.nhs.uk/information](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/information)



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