

Radiology Department

Vaginogram examination

Information for patients



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.
- If you are female and of childbearing age, i.e. up to 55 years old, we will ask you to complete a form asking about the dates of your periods. (You may already have done this.) This is because the examination should usually only be performed when we can be sure that you are not pregnant. Please complete and return this form as soon as possible so that we can give you an appropriate appointment date.
- If you weigh more than 146 kg or 23 stone, please tell us immediately.

If you need hospital transport to reach the hospital, please tell us as soon as possible.

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 he/she feels 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 or bra straps 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 it can be a bit messy!

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 the 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 him or her 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

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473**. When we receive your call we may transfer you to an interpreter. This can take some time, so please be patient.

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