

Having a sinogram or fistulogram

Department of Radiology

Information for Patients

Produced: March 2020

Review: March 2023

Leaflet number: 26 Version: 5

Introduction

If you are an outpatient please read your appointment letter carefully to check which hospital you must attend for your appointment.

What is a sinogram or fistulogram?

This test is to show the track or sinus (passage) of a cavity in the body that opens out onto the skin surface. This is sometimes called a fistula.

How to prepare for the examination

No special preparation is needed. If you are on medication from your doctor please continue to take it as normal. If there is any possibility that you may be pregnant please contact the Radiology Department immediately.

What happens during the examination?

You may be asked to change into a hospital gown. You will be taken into the X-ray room where the examination will be explained and you can ask any questions that you have.

Your skin will be washed with antiseptic solution and a small catheter (plastic tube) is inserted gently into the opening of the sinus on the skin surface. A small amount of contrast liquid (a colourless liquid that shows up on X-rays) is injected through the catheter into the sinus. X-rays will be taken to show where the sinus goes.

When all the X-rays have been taken the catheter will be removed and your skin will be covered with a sterile dressing. If you normally use a stoma bag please bring a spare bag with you.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Important information

The contrast liquid contains iodine.

Please tell the X-ray staff when you arrive if:

- **you are allergic to iodine or rubber (latex)**, have any other allergies or have asthma.
- **you have reacted previously to an intravenous contrast liquid**; the dye used for kidney X-rays and CT scanning and X-rays of your heart and blood vessels.
- **you are on renal dialysis or have any problems with your kidneys.**
- **there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.**

The radiographer will ask you a series of questions about your health before the test starts to see if you might be allergic to the contrast agent.

Who does the procedure?

A radiologist (specialist X-ray doctor) will perform the examination. As we are a teaching hospital a student may also be present. If you wish, you can request that the student is not present during your examination.

How long will the procedure take?

The examination usually takes about 15 to 30 minutes.

How do I get the results?

The results will not be given to you immediately but an explanation of how to get your results will be given to you following your examination. If you are an inpatient the results will be given to the doctors looking after you on the ward.

What happens after the examination?

You will be able to leave immediately following the examination.

The area around the tube may be sticky if some of the contrast liquid spills. The liquid can be washed off if necessary.

There may be a small amount of bleeding from the sinus for a short time. If the bleeding does not stop please call your GP.

If you have any other problems after the test please see your GP.

Background radiation

The risk of having X-rays is very small indeed. We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. This comes from the sun, food we eat, and the ground. Each examination gives a dose on top of this natural background radiation. The risks of radiation are slightly higher for the unborn child so we must ask female patients aged 10 to 55 years about their periods and possibility of being pregnant.

The benefits of this examination are likely to outweigh any potential risk, and the risk from not having the examination could be greater. We will take all safeguards to minimise the amount of X-rays you receive.

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk