

# Having a Myelogram

Information for patients



**Leeds**  
Radiology

## **What is a myelogram?**

A myelogram is an examination of the spinal cord and the nerves around it, involving an injection of x-ray dye and a CT scan.

## **What does it involve?**

The examination is undertaken with you lying on your side on the x-ray table with your knees up towards your chest. Your back will be cleaned and a local anaesthetic may be used to numb the area.

X-rays are used to guide the needle to the correct position and x-ray dye is injected. Once the needle is removed you are required to move into different positions to move the x-ray dye.

Next, you are taken to the CT scanner for more detailed images. You are then required to rest in the department for 60 minutes.

## **Who performs the examination?**

It is performed by a team of healthcare professionals which may include a radiographer, an advanced practitioner, an assistant and a radiologist.

## **How do I prepare for the examination?**

If you are on Warfarin or any blood thinning medication, please contact us on: **0113 392 3768**. Do not stop taking other medication.

You may continue to eat and drink.

## In the Radiology Department

You will be given a gown to change into. Please do not bring large sums of money or items of value with you.

### How long will I be in the department?

Allow 2-3 hours for your visit. The examination will take approximately 45 minutes but you will be required to stay in the department for another hour. Although we try to keep to your appointment time, there may be a delay due to emergency patients.

We are unable to provide any childcare so please make alternative arrangements.

## Are there any risks?

### Radiation

This examination involves x-rays. Patients who are, or might be pregnant **must** inform a member of staff.

The amount of radiation used is more than an ordinary x-ray of the chest or body and is equal to the natural radiation we receive from the atmosphere over a period of approximately two years.

The risk from this radiation dose is very low.

### Allergic reaction

Some patients may be allergic to the x-ray dye or medicines. This is very rare. If you have any allergies, please tell a member of staff.

Despite these small risks your doctor believes it is beneficial for you to have this examination.

## Do you ever fail to complete the examination?

This examination is usually successful. If, for any reason, we are unable to perform the examination we will inform your doctor who will discuss the alternatives with you.

## Following the examination

You will need to have someone with transport to take you home as you must not drive yourself. If this is not possible, please contact the department.

## Are there any side effects?

You may get a headache after the examination. You can take pain relief and lay down for 30 minutes to help ease this.

## How will I get my results?

You will not be given your results on the day. The results will be sent to your hospital consultant and they will contact you.



## What did you think of your care?

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