



**The Leeds  
Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Trust

# Having a sialoplasty

Information for patients



**Leeds**  
Radiology

## **What is a sialoplasty?**

The salivary glands are located on each side of the face. They release saliva into the mouth. A sialoplasty is a procedure to open up a narrowing in your salivary gland or duct.

You will have x-rays taken of your jaw area. A thin plastic tube is inserted into the small hole through which the saliva enters the mouth from the salivary gland. When the tube is in place a small amount of contrast (x-ray dye) is inserted into the gland whilst x-rays are taken. Once the gland has been examined you will be asked to rinse your mouth with a lemon flavoured liquid and an x-ray is taken. Should there be a suitable narrow portion to stretch we will perform a sialoplasty.

You will then have local anaesthetic injected to numb the jaw area. A tube containing a tiny balloon is passed into the duct through the small hole in your mouth. The tube passes along the duct and through the narrowed section. Once in place the balloon is inflated several times for approximately 60 seconds each time. You may experience some pain/discomfort during inflation.

## **Who performs the test?**

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

## How do I prepare for the test?

You do not need to prepare in advance for this test. You may continue to eat and drink. Do not stop taking vital medicines (heart drugs, steroids, diuretics / water tablets etc.) Please do not bring large sums of money or items of value with you. It is helpful if you remove necklaces and earrings before attending. Unfortunately we are unable to provide any child care so please make alternative arrangements if necessary.

## How long will I be in the department?

You may be in the department for up to two hours. Although we strive to keep to your appointment time, occasionally there may be a delay due to emergency patients.

## Are there any side-effects?

### *Radiation*

This procedure involves x-rays. Female patients who are, or might be pregnant **must** inform a member of staff in advance.

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 we give you. This is very rare. If you have any allergies please tell the member of staff who is performing your examination, at the start of the examination.

## Do you ever fail to complete the examination?

This is a safe examination that 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.

Despite these small risks your doctor believes it is beneficial for you to have this examination. Do bear in mind that there are greater risks from missing a serious disorder by not having the examination.

## How will I feel following the test?

You can continue to eat and drink as normal. There is a small risk of infection. Should you experience persistent swelling/pain please seek medical advice.

## How do I get my results?

At the end of the test the radiologist will discuss the results with you. The results will be sent to your GP (if they referred you for the test. If so you must make an appointment to see them). If you have been referred by a hospital consultant / specialist then you will be sent an appointment to attend the relevant clinic or contacted by letter with results.



## What did you think of your care?

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