



**The Leeds
Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Trust

Having a urethrogram

Information for patients



Leeds
Radiology

What is a urethrogram?

A urethrogram is an examination to assess your urethra (the water pipe that urine flows out of from your bladder). It helps us look for narrowing, blockages and leaks.

What does it involve?

A catheter will be gently inserted into your urethra and x-ray dye will then be run into your urethra, along this catheter.

If you have recently had surgery on your urethra and have a catheter already in your urethra we will place our catheter alongside this one to help us check if there are any leaks from your surgery.

Who performs the examination?

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

How do I prepare for the examination?

You may continue to eat, drink and take your usual medication.

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 up to an hour for your visit. 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. It 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 be able to eat, drink and continue normal activities.

Are there any side effects?

You may feel a bit sore but this will pass quickly.

If you see minor drops of blood in your urine, don't worry this will settle. On the first visit to the toilet to empty your bladder, you may pass some sticky fluid which is the contrast used during the examination.

How will I get my results?

The results will be sent to your hospital consultant.

If you have a urethral catheter in after surgery, the radiologist or specialist radiographer will write your results down and you will take this to the urology department so you can be reviewed by a specialist nurse on the same day.



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