

Having a submandibular sialogram

Information for patients



This examination may require you to have a dental x-ray called an occlusal, before the sialogram, at the Leeds Dental Institute. Please see details of your appointment on the attached letter.

What is a sialogram?

A sialogram is an x-ray examination of the salivary ducts and glands which are located under the tongue and release saliva into the mouth.

What does it involve?

Firstly, you will have x-rays taken of your jaw area. A thin plastic tube is inserted into the small opening under your tongue through which the saliva enters the mouth. When the tube is in place, a small amount of x-ray dye is injected and x-rays are taken. Next, you will be asked to rinse your mouth with a lemon flavoured liquid and a final x-ray is taken.

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?

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

In the Radiology Department

You will need to remove any necklaces and earrings. You may wish to consider removing before attending.

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 one 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 procedure 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 can continue to eat and drink as normal.

Are there any side effects?

There may be some minor pain or swelling for the following 24 hours. Some patients find they have an improvement of their symptoms following the examination.

How will I get my results?

At the end of the examination the radiologist will discuss the results and aftercare with you. If a hospital consultant sent you for the test they will contact you. If your GP sent you, please contact them to get your results.



What did you think of your care?

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Your views matter



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