

Having a Dacrocystogram

Information for patients



What is a dacrocystogram?

A dacrocystogram is an x-ray examination of the tear ducts.

What does it involve?

You will be asked to lie on your back on the x-ray table and have x-rays taken of your eye area.

Next, eye drops (containing local anaesthetic) will be given. A thin plastic tube is inserted into the opening, in the corner of your eye, through which tears drain. When the tube is in place, x-ray dye is injected and more x-rays are taken. You may experience a bitter taste. The tube is then removed.

You may be asked to take a seat whilst the equipment is moved into a different position. This is so the final images can be taken whilst you are standing.

Who performs the examination?

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

How do I prepare for the examination?

You may continue to eat, drink and take your usual medications. Do not wear contact lenses or eye make-up for your appointment.

Please do not bring large sums of money or items of value with you.

How long will I be in the department?

Allow 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?

Your eye may be red and irritated but do NOT rub your eye as it will continue to be numb for a little while afterwards. The local anaesthetic drops can cause very short term blurring of your eye sight. It should pass quickly but do not drive until your vision is clear.

How will I get my results?

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



What did you think of your care?

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