



**The Leeds  
Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Trust

# Having a sialoplasty

Information for patients



**Leeds**  
Radiology

## **What is a sialoplasty?**

A sialoplasty is a procedure to open up a narrowing in your salivary gland or duct.

## **What does this involve?**

You will have x-rays taken of your jaw area. A thin plastic tube is inserted into the opening through which the saliva enters the mouth. When the tube is in place a small amount of x-ray dye is inserted into the gland and x-rays are taken.

If there is a suitable narrow portion to stretch we will perform a sialoplasty.

You will have local anaesthetic injected to numb the area. A tube containing a tiny balloon is passed through the small opening in your mouth to the narrowed section. Once in place the balloon is inflated several times for approximately 60 seconds each time. You may experience some pain during this time.

## **Who performs the procedure?**

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 procedure?**

If you are on any blood thinning medication, please contact us on: **0113 733 4974**. Do not stop taking other medication.

You may continue to eat and drink.

## 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 two hours 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 child care 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 procedure.

## Do you ever fail to complete the procedure?

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

## Following the procedure

You can continue to eat and drink as normal once the local anaesthetic has worn off.

## Are there any side effects?

There is a small risk of swelling after this procedure. If you have ongoing swelling/pain please seek medical advice.

## How do I get my results?

At the end of the procedure the radiologist will discuss the results and aftercare with you. 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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