

# Having a salivary gland stone removal

Information for patients



## **What is salivary gland stone removal?**

You are having this procedure because you have a stone in your salivary gland or duct that we may be able to remove.

## **What does it involve?**

To check if removal may be possible, 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 and x-rays are taken.

If the stone is suitable for removal, you will have local anaesthetic injected to numb the area. A tube is passed through the small opening in your mouth to the stone.

The radiologist will trap the stone in a small basket on the end of the tube. If the stone is too large a small cut may need to be made in your mouth.

You may experience some pain/discomfort during the procedure.

## **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 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 procedure.

## Do you ever fail to complete the procedure?

This examination 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.

If a small cut has been made in your mouth, you may have a small amount of bleeding after the procedure. If this happens we will give you with some gauze and ask that you press on the area for ten minutes.

## 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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