

Having a proctogram

Information for patients



Leeds
Radiology

What is a proctogram?

A proctogram is an x-ray examination to demonstrate your rectum and anus. These are the last parts of your large bowel.

What does it involve?

When you arrive we will give you a drink of x-ray dye. You will then sit in our waiting area for 45-60 minutes to allow the dye to pass into your bowel.

After 45-60 minutes you will come back in to the examination room and be asked to lie on your side and a small tube will be placed into your bottom. A white paste will be passed through the tube which is then removed. You will then be asked to sit on a porta-loo, within the privacy of the x-ray machine and x-rays will be taken as you pass the paste.

Who performs the examination?

A specialist radiographer will perform the examination with an assistant. If you would like a member of staff of the same sex as you to act as a chaperone, please contact the department as soon as possible.

How do I prepare for the examination?

You can 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 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 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?

The barium can have a constipating effect so you should drink plenty of fluids over the following few days to keep hydrated.

How will I get my results?

You will not be given your results on the day. They will be sent to your hospital consultant and they will contact you.



What did you think of your care?

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/nhsleedsfft

Your views matter

