



**The Leeds  
Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Trust

# Having a cystogram

Information for patients



**Leeds**  
Radiology

## **What is a cystogram?**

You have recently had surgery and a catheter is in your bladder. We are going to run some x-ray dye (contrast) into your bladder, via your catheter to make sure that your bladder has healed.

## **Who performs the test?**

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

## **How do I prepare for the test?**

You don't need to do anything to prepare for this test. Do not stop taking vital medicines (heart drugs, steroids, diuretics / water tablets etc.).

## **What should I bring with me?**

You may wish to bring some spare underwear as the contrast is colourless but sticky. You will be required to change into a gown for this examination. We will provide you with a gown, but you may wish to bring your own dressing gown. Unfortunately we are unable to provide any childcare so please make alternative arrangements if necessary.

## **How long will I be in the department?**

You can expect to be in the department for up to one hour. Although we try to keep to your appointment time, occasionally there may be a delay due to emergency patients.

## Are there any side-effects?

### *Radiation*

This procedure involves x-rays. Female patients who are, or might be pregnant **must** inform a member of staff in advance.

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 (contrast) or medicines we give you. This is very rare. If you have any allergies please tell the member of staff who is performing your examination, at the start of the examination.

## Do you ever fail to complete the examination?

This is a safe examination that 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.

Despite these small risks your doctor believes it is beneficial for you to have this examination. Do bear in mind that there are greater risks from missing a serious disorder by not having the examination.

## How will I feel following the test?

You may feel a bit sore but this will subside quickly. If you see some drops of blood in the urine, don't worry this will settle. On the first visit to the toilet to empty your bladder, you may pass some sticky fluid.

## How do I get my results?

The results will be sent to your hospital consultant. If you have a urethral catheter in after surgery, the radiologist or specialist radiographer will write your results on a report slip which you will take to the urology department so you can be reviewed by a specialist nurse.



## What did you think of your care?

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