



**The Leeds
Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Trust

Having a urethrogram

Information for patients



Leeds
Radiology

What is a urethrogram?

A urethrogram is a procedure to assess your urethra (the water pipe that urine flows out of from your bladder). It is performed to assess the anatomy of your urethra and to look for conditions such as narrowing, blockages and leaks. A catheter will be gently inserted into your urethra and x-ray dye (contrast) will then be run into your urethra, via this catheter. If you have already had surgery on your urethra and have a urinary catheter in, it will be done to ensure the urethra has healed before the catheter is removed.

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 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 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 minor drops of blood in your urine, don't worry this will settle. On the first visit to the toilet to empty your bladder, you may pass some sticky fluid which is the contrast used during the examination.

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.



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