

Having a nephrostomy catheter exchange

Information for patients



What is a nephrostomy catheter exchange?

You have a small tube in your kidney that drains the urine into a bag. We need to replace this drainage tube to help prevent any blockages or leaks that may occur. This is a routine procedure.

What does it involve?

You will be asked to lay on the x-ray table and we will take x-rays while we remove your current tube and replace it with a new one.

Who performs the examination?

It is performed by a team of healthcare professionals which may include a radiographer, a specialist radiographer, an assistant and a radiologist.

How do I prepare for the examination?

You may 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 an hour 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?

There is a small risk of infection. If you experience burning when you pass urine, loin (lower back) pains or a fever, please see your doctor.

How will I get my results?

At the end of the test the specialist radiographer or radiologist will discuss the results with you.



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