



Information for  
patients and  
carers

## Urethrogram

## What is a urethrogram?

A urethrogram is an x-ray examination which examines your urethra (the tube which passes from your bladder through your penis).

This examination is carried out for a variety of reasons including trauma or difficulty in passing urine. As part of the examination a contrast agent (an x-ray dye) is used.



This examination is performed by an advanced practitioner radiographer or a consultant radiologist. An assistant will also be in the examination room during your urethrogram.

Please inform us before you attend:

- If you weigh over 28 stone/178kg
- If you require the use of a hoist
- If you require an interpreter – please inform us as soon as you receive your appointment letter, and we will arrange an official interpreter for you

## Preparation for the examination

There is no specific preparation for your urethrogram. You may eat and drink as normal and take any necessary medications.

## Can I bring a relative or friend with me?

Anyone can accompany you to the hospital, but they will usually not be allowed into the room when you have your examination. Please note

that we do not have childcare facilities; if you need to bring your children with you please bring along an adult who can supervise them while your examination is being done.

## What happens when I arrive at the x-ray department?

When you arrive at the x-ray department please book-in at the reception desk and take a seat in the waiting area. You will then be shown through to the examination room where the radiographer will check some details with you and complete a checklist to ensure it is safe for you to have the contrast agent. The radiographer will explain the examination and answer any questions you may have. Before starting the examination, the radiographer will ask you to put on a hospital gown in the changing area which is connected to the examination room.

## What happens during the examination?

To start you will be asked to lie on your back on the x-ray table.

The radiographer will clean your genital area and then slowly and gently insert a very small catheter (tube) into the end of your penis. The radiographer will use some lubricating gel to help guide the catheter into place.



As the catheter is being inserted you may feel a slight discomfort which should wear off quickly once the catheter is in the correct position for the examination.

On the tip of the catheter is a small balloon which will be inflated to keep it in place during the examination. The radiographer will then inject a small amount of the contrast agent through the catheter into your penis to demonstrate your urethra, whilst taking x-rays.

When the radiographer is confident they have the necessary x-rays they will deflate the balloon on the tip of the catheter and it will be gently removed.

## **What happens after the examination?**

Once the catheter has been removed the radiographer will show you back through to the changing area where you will be able to get dressed again. You may then leave the x-ray department.

## **Are there any side effects?**

You may notice a small amount of bloody (red) discharge when you next pass urine after the examination. This is due to the catheter being introduced during the examination and is a normal side effect.

## **Are there any risks?**

A very small number of patients have an allergic reaction to the x-ray contrast agent. Before your examination the radiographer will ask you a series of questions about your medical history, including any allergies you may have. This will help us assess if you are at risk of an allergic reaction.

There are some small risks involved with x-rays but only the minimum amount of radiation is used to produce the images required. We use the smallest dose possible, in line with national regulations. This allows us to make an accurate diagnosis to help plan your care, therefore the benefits of having the X-ray far outweigh the radiation dose you will receive.

## When will I receive the examination results?

The x-rays will be reported on after your examination. The results will be sent to the clinician who referred you for this examination which they will discuss with you at your next appointment with them. If you do not yet have a follow-up appointment, your clinician will be in contact with you once they have received your examination results.

Unfortunately, you will not receive any results on the day of your examination.

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact Royal Preston Hospital X-ray Department on **01772 522096**

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

**Gujarati:**

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપાકરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

**Romanian:**

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

**Polish:**

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

**Punjabi:**

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

**Urdu:**

دو سر ی زبانوں او ر بڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے بے مل مدد یک ضرورت ہے تو ییچھیا جس ییہ ابی دست ہو یسکت ہے براے مہر یان پوے یچھدی۔ معلومات

**Arabic:**

مطبوعه بأحرف كبيرة و بلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه المعلومات يُرجى أن تطلب أخرى يمكن أن توفر هذه المعلومات

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