

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 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 where you will be asked to have a seat in the waiting area.

Before starting the examination, we will ask you to put on a hospital gown in the changing area.

When you are ready, we will take you through to the examination room. Once in the room the radiologist will check some details with you and complete a checklist to ensure it is safe for you to have the contrast.

The radiologist will explain the examination and answer any questions you may have.

What happens during the examination?

To start you will be asked to lie on your back on the x-ray table. The radiologist will clean your genital area and then slowly and gently insert a very small catheter (tube) into the end of your penis.



The radiologist 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 radiologist 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 radiologist is confident that 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 radiologist 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 radiologist 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 Chorley and South Ribble Hospital X-ray Department on **01257 245196**.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**.

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:
patientexperienceandinvolve@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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