

Information for Patients and Carers

Contrast via Stoma Gastro-Intestinal (GI) Loopogram

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy bands of blue. The top band is a light blue, the middle is a medium blue, and the bottom is a dark blue.

What is a loopogram?

A gastro-intestinal (GI) loopogram is an X-ray examination to assess the structure of the bowel which is forming your stoma (the opening on the surface of your abdomen). As part of the examination a contrast agent (an X-ray dye) is introduced through a small tube which will be inserted into your stoma; this will allow us to visualise the large or small bowel which is extending to the site of your stoma on X-ray.

A very small number of patients have an allergic reaction to the 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.

This examination is performed by specially trained advanced practitioner radiographers, or a consultant radiologist. An assistant will also be in the examination room during your loopogram.

Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you are breastfeeding/chest feeding
- If you weigh over 28 stone (178kg)
- If you feel you may need further assistance with transferring (including 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.

Are there any special preparations required before the examination?

There is no specific preparation for this examination. However, we ask that you bring a spare stoma bag and all the equipment you usually use to change your stoma bag to your appointment.

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, you will be asked to change into a hospital gown. You will then be shown through to the examination room where the radiographer will check your details and complete a checklist. This will ensure it is safe for you to have the contrast agent.

What happens during the examination?

You will be asked to lie on your back on the X-ray table. Your stoma bag will be removed, and your stoma will be covered with swabs to ensure any leakage is contained. A small catheter (a soft, flexible tube) will then be gently placed into the opening of your stoma, this should not be painful.

Once the catheter is in place a very small balloon, on the tip of the catheter, will be inflated with sterile water. The balloon ensures the catheter remains in position during the examination.

As the balloon inflates you may have a sensation of pressure and a very mild discomfort which should wear off quickly once the balloon is sufficiently inflated.



The X-ray camera will be moved so it is above your abdomen. Once it is in the correct position, contrast will be slowly injected through the catheter.

X-rays will be taken at the same time to demonstrate the movement of the contrast through your bowel. To encourage the contrast to flow to the necessary part of your bowel you may be asked to change positions such as turning towards your left and then towards your right.

When the necessary X-rays have been taken the balloon on the tip of the catheter will be deflated and the catheter will be removed.

As the catheter is removed your stoma will be covered with some more swabs to ensure your stoma and skin are clean and dry before the radiographer places your new stoma bag on for you.

What happens after the examination?

Once your stoma bag is in place you will be able to get dressed and you may leave the hospital when you feel ready.

Are there any side effects?

After the examination you may experience very minor bleeding from the stoma; this is normal after your examination due to the catheter being placed inside and should subside shortly after the examination.

Are there any risks?

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, to provide as much information as we can about your condition. This allows the doctors to make an accurate diagnosis to help plan your treatment, therefore the benefits of having the examination far outweigh the radiation dose you will receive.

When will I receive the examination results?

The X-rays will be reported on by a radiologist after your examination. The results will be sent to the clinician who referred you for this examination. During your examination you will be advised on how you will receive the results of the test. Unfortunately, you will not receive any results on the day of your examination.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact us on the below telephone numbers:

If your appointment is at Royal Preston Hospital, please call **01772 522096**

If your appointment is at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital, please call **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/>

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

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

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

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping 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 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 to join our reading group please contact us on email address:

patientexperienceandinvolem@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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