

## **Radiology - Fluoroscopy Department**

# **Sialogram Information Leaflet**

### **Introduction**

You have been advised by your doctor to have a Sialogram. This information leaflet will give you general information about having this procedure, what is involved and what are the possible risks.

This leaflet should answer most of your questions when your doctor has referred you to the Radiology department for a Sialogram. It should not replace the discussion between you and the healthcare team, but may act as a starting point for discussion. If after reading this information you have concerns or require further explanation, please discuss this with a member of the healthcare team.

Please read this leaflet carefully to make sure you successfully prepare for the examination.

Please contact the X-ray Department if your weight is equal to or more than 205Kg (32 stone); you may need an alternative examination.

### **Points to Remember**

- Please bring any sprays or inhalers that you are taking with you to your appointment;
- If you are on medication from your GP please continue to take it as normal;
- We also ask you to leave any valuable possessions at home.

### **What is a Sialogram?**

A Sialogram is an examination of the salivary glands usually performed under



## Patient Information

X-ray guidance; the examination will be carried out by a radiologist (X-ray doctor), who may be assisted by a radiographer and possibly a radiology nurse or a radiology department assistant. This procedure may take up to 30 minutes.

## Preparation

There is no special preparation for this procedure, however:

- Please avoid using lipstick or lip gloss;
- Please remove any jewellery from your head and neck.

## Risks of the Procedure

- It is possible that you may have an allergic reaction from the contrast agent used. You will be asked about allergies by the radiologist at the time.
- X-rays are a type of radiation. We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives; this comes from the sun, food we eat, and the ground. Exposure to X-rays carries a small risk, but your doctor feels that this risk is outweighed by the benefits of having the test. We will take all safeguards to minimise the amount of X-rays you receive.

## Safety

**Female patients aged 12- 55 years:** the risks of radiation are slightly higher for the unborn child so if you are pregnant please inform the department by calling the number on your appointment letter before your visit.

## What will happen when I arrive?

You will be asked to report to the Fluoroscopy and Interventional reception desk, by following Route 2, to be checked in and arrived for your appointment.

## During your examination

The procedure will again be explained to you by the Radiologist and you will be able to ask any further questions that you may have.

## Patient Information

Once you have understood the explanation and agreed to continue with the examination you will be asked to lie down on an X-ray table. The radiologist will insert a small tube into your salivary duct and gland, found in your cheek or under your tongue.

You **may** be given some lemon flavoured liquid to rinse around your mouth. This will help in opening the salivary ducts and may cause your cheek to swell slightly for a small period.

The radiologist will inject a small amount of colourless liquid (contrast medium) into the salivary duct and gland. X-ray images will be taken with your head straight and turned to the side.

You may be given some more of the lemon flavoured liquid and a final X-ray image may be taken after a few minutes delay.

## After your examination

- After the examination, you may go home or return to work as normal.
- If you have any problems after the examination please see your GP.

## How do I get the results?

The results will not be given to you immediately. They will be sent to the doctor who referred you to us for this examination.

## Other Sources of Information:

For general information about radiology departments visit the Royal College of Radiologists website: [www.goingfora.com](http://www.goingfora.com)

For information about the effects of X-rays and information about radiology departments visit the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/x-ray/>

## Patient Information

Please note that the views expressed in these websites do not necessarily reflect the views of UHCW NHS Trust.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email [feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk)

### Document History

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