

Speech and Language Therapy

Video-fluoroscopy Examination to Assess Swallowing Difficulties

Your Speech and Language Therapist or Doctor has referred you for further investigation of your swallowing. This means attending a video-fluoroscopy clinic which is held at UHCW. A video fluoroscopy is a moving x-ray of your swallow.

What happens in the clinic?

The Video-fluoroscopy clinic is held in the x-ray suite, on the ground floor at UHCW. If you are an inpatient, a porter will come and collect you from the ward. You will be called into the x-ray suite when the team are ready to assess you. You will be introduced to the team and then asked to sit on a seat inside the x-ray equipment.

The examination will be carried out by two Speech and Language Therapists and a Radiographer or Radiologist.

One of the Speech and Language Therapists will mix food and drink with a type of contrast which has an orange flavour to it. Adding this allows the food/drink to be seen on the x-ray as you swallow it.

We will ask you to try different kinds of food and drink during the process to aid your swallowing. Postural changes may also be considered if appropriate.



How long will it take?

The procedure will take no more than 10 minutes. However, if you are an inpatient you may be off the ward for up to an hour dependent upon waiting times. You will be asked to sign a form to give your consent for this procedure.

Are there any risks involved with the procedure?

You will be exposed to a small amount of radiation but this will be monitored by the radiographer or radiologist. Suctioning equipment is available if a large amount of the contrast goes 'down the wrong way'.

Can I eat and drink before the examination?

Unless you have been advised otherwise, you can eat and drink as normal before your appointment. If you are currently feeding through a tube, you can take your feeds as normal up until your appointment time. It is important that you inform the Speech and Language Therapist of any food allergies.

What happens after the examination?

If you are an inpatient, a porter will take you back to the ward. The Speech and Language Therapy team will look at your results, write a report and discuss the findings with you. This may not happen on the same day. If you are an outpatient you can go home immediately after the examination.

If a change of eating and / or drinking is recommended, this will be discussed with you and plans on managing your condition will be made. This may include another video-fluoroscopy in the future.

If you have any mobility problems or if you have any further questions, please contact:

Speech and Language Therapy team on 02476 965709 or ext. 25709 for inpatients

Patient Information

Head and Neck Cancer Speech and Language Therapists on 02476 966449 or ext. 26449.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6449 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

Document History

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