Patient Information

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

Speech and Language Therapy

Videofluoroscopy to assess swallowing difficulties

Your speech and language therapist or doctor has referred you for investigation of your swallowing. This means attending a Videofluoroscopy Clinic at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.

What is a videofluoroscopy

A videofluoroscopy is a moving X-ray of your swallow.

A speech and language therapist will mix food and drink with a type of contrast which has an orange flavour to it. Adding this allows food or drink to be seen on an X-ray as you swallow it.

We'll ask you to try different kinds of food and drink during the process to help your swallowing. We may also ask you to change your posture during the examination.

Where the examination is done

The Videofluoroscopy Clinic is held in the X-ray suite on the ground floor at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.

If you are an inpatient, a porter will come and collect you from the ward.

Before the examination

We will call you into the X-ray suite when the team are ready to assess you. You'll be introduced to the team and we'll ask you to sit on a seat inside the X-ray equipment.

The examination will be carried out by a speech and language therapist and a radiographer or radiologist.

How long the examination takes

The examination takes up to 10 minutes. If you are an inpatient, you may be away from the ward for up to an hour depending upon waiting times.

Risks

You'll be exposed to a small amount of radiation. 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.'

Food and drink

You can eat and drink as usual before your appointment unless you were advised otherwise.

Please inform the speech and language therapist of any food allergies.

If you are currently feeding through a tube, you can take your feeds as normal up until your appointment time.

If a change of eating or drinking is recommended, we will discuss this with you. You may need another videofluoroscopy in the future.

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.

More information

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

Speech and Language Therapy: 024 7696 5709

Head and Neck Cancer Speech and Language Therapists

024 7696 6449

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.

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit: www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback

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