

PATIENT INFORMATION

Having a Sialogram

Introduction

This leaflet has been designed to improve your understanding of your forthcoming test and contains answers to many of the common questions. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for such a discussion.

Radiologists are doctors specially trained to interpret the images and carry out more complex examinations. They are supported by radiographers who are highly trained to carry out x-rays and other imaging procedures.

What is a sialogram?

A sialogram is a dye investigation of a salivary gland. It is carried out to look in detail at the larger salivary glands, namely the parotid or submandibular glands. These glands drain saliva into your mouth through small tubes (ducts). The parotid duct opens on the inside of the cheek next to the upper back teeth. The submandibular duct opens on the inside of the mouth under the tongue immediately behind the lower front teeth.

Why do I need a sialogram?

To investigate potential blockage of the salivary ducts.

What are the options or alternatives?

This is the most reliable way of viewing the small ducts from your salivary glands.

Who will be performing the sialogram?

A specially trained doctor called a radiologist. Radiologists have special expertise in using x-ray and ultrasound scanning equipment, and also in interpreting the images produced. They need to look at these images while carrying out the procedure.

Radiographers and radiology nurses will be present in the room to assist during the procedure; they will introduce themselves at the start.

Occasionally student radiographers or medical students will be present to observe.

Where will the sialogram take place?

Generally in the Medical Imaging Department.

Cancelling your appointment

If you are unable to attend your appointment, we would be grateful if you could contact us on **01392 402336 selecting option one**, as soon as possible. We can then offer your original appointment to another patient. A further date and time will then be arranged for you.

Please note: If you have had D&V (diarrhoea and vomiting) you will need to contact us to rebook your appointment unless you have been clear for the past 48 hours.

How do I prepare?

You may eat, drink and continue to take any medication prior to your sialogram. No other preparation is necessary.

Can I bring a friend/relative?

Yes, but for reasons of safety they will not be able to accompany you into the x-ray room.

Valuables

Patients are encouraged to leave their valuables at home. It is the patient's responsibility to ensure all valuables are on their person before leaving the Medical Imaging Department.

What actually happens during a sialogram?

The radiologist (X-ray doctor) who performs your sialogram will pass a small plastic tube into the duct of the salivary gland under investigation. The tube is blunt and therefore this part of the investigation is not particularly painful and does not require a local anaesthetic injection. Once this tube is in the correct position dye will be injected through it into the saliva gland. This takes a few minutes. The tube is then removed and X-ray pictures are taken.

Will it hurt?

A sialogram is painless although you may experience some discomfort in your salivary gland as the dye is injected into it.

How long will it take?

It usually takes around 30 minutes to perform the investigation from start to finish but it is important to remember that just because a sialogram takes a

little longer it does not necessarily mean that there is something wrong.

What happens afterwards?

As long as you feel all right you will be able to leave immediately.

What will happen to the results?

A report of the procedure will be recorded in your notes and also sent to your specialist within 48 hours.

We aim to report examinations, as soon as possible. Results will be sent to the Doctor who referred you for the investigation, as they may need further review and therefore it could be approximately 20 days before you are contacted by your Doctor.

Are there any risks or complications?

Any discomfort in your salivary gland should wear off shortly after. There is a small risk of introducing infection. If your salivary gland becomes more painful, swollen or red and inflamed you should contact your GP.

Contact us

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact us on **01392 402336**.

How to get to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital at Wonford

Park & Ride

Our Dartline PR3 Park & Ride bus is quick and not expensive.

It runs from Wonford Hospital to Digby. Digby is near Tesco, the railway station and junction 30 of the M5. There are signs along some of the main roads into Exeter pointing to the RD&E park and ride.

The park and ride service runs from Monday - Friday. **There is no service at the weekend.**

By bus

Stagecoach buses H Service run to Wonford Hospital from the high street in the city centre Monday to Saturday. Limited Sunday service. They also run to Wonford Hospital from the Broadfields area.

Stagecoach buses from Exmouth (57), Dawlish (2), Torbay (X46), Teignmouth (2) and Plymouth (X38) stop next to the hospital on Barrack Road.

First Southern National bus X53 from Weymouth, Seaton, Beer and Sidford stops next to the hospital on Barrack Road. Turner's Tours bus 369 from Chulmleigh, Lapford, Morchard Bishop and Crediton stops next to the hospital on Barrack Road and outside the main front entrance of the hospital.

By car

Follow signposts to the hospital from most of the main routes into Exeter. Follow signposts in the hospital grounds to our car parks.

Car parking is by pay & display, so please bring change.

The number of spaces is limited, so please leave plenty of time to find a space.

Using Sat Nav to find us?

Tap in postcode: EX2 5DW for RD&E Wonford

For more information on how to get to the hospital, please use the following website:

www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/where

For more information on the Medical Imaging Department, please visit our website:

www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/services/medical-imaging

*This leaflet was modified with acknowledgment of,
and permission from, the Royal College of Radiologists.*

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

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