

Proctogram

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact: Radiology Department

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What is a Proctogram?

This is a radiological examination of the rectum (back passage) and the muscles used when passing a motion.

Who will be doing the Proctogram?

The procedure will be performed by a radiologist, a doctor specially trained in the use of x-ray equipment and carrying out this procedure.

What preparation is needed?

There is no special preparation required for this examination. Please continue to eat and drink as normal. When you arrive in the Radiology department you will be shown to a changing cubicle and asked to undress and put on an x-ray gown. Dressing gowns are not provided so you may wish to bring your own with you.

What happens during the Proctogram?

The procedure will be performed in a special x-ray room in the Radiology department. You will be asked to lie on your left hand side on a trolley. A nurse will gently insert a soft tube into your back passage and inject some barium contrast.

The tube will then be removed. You will be asked to sit on a bed pan on an x-ray machine and evacuate your bowel. The radiologist will take various x-ray pictures from behind a screen while you are doing this. Your privacy will be respected as much as possible throughout the procedure. The actual examination will take approximately 15 minutes.

What happens after the Proctogram?

You will be shown to the toilet where there are also washing facilities if required. When you feel comfortable you will be free to leave. You are recommended to drink plenty of fluids for the following 24 hours to ensure that all the barium is cleared from your back passage. During this time you may experience some constipation.

Are there any risks or complications?

A proctogram is a very safe procedure.

The procedure will use x-rays. The x-ray radiation used will be the smallest amount needed to get the information. Radiation can cause harm, including cancer, but the benefit of the information gained from the procedure will be much greater than the risk from the radiation.

You must inform a member staff if there is any chance you could be pregnant.

Allergic reactions to barium contrast can occur but are extremely rare. Please seek advice from your GP if you think you are experiencing one following the procedure.

Are there any alternatives?

The alternative is a MRI Proctogram; however your doctor has assessed your needs and decided that this standard proctogram is the most appropriate examination for you. Some patients may require both tests.

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact Dr D Petty, Consultant Radiologist, The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE or telephone 01904 721140.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email pals@york.nhs.uk. An answer phone is available out of hours.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format, for example Braille, large print or audio.

如果你要求本資 不同的 或 式提供 , 電或發電

Jeżeli niniejsze informacje potrzebne są w innym języku lub formacie, należy zadzwonić lub wysłać wiadomość e-mail

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