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X Ray Department

Bon Secours Hospital

Tralee, Co Kerry.

Patient Information Leaflet
For an
IVP (Intravenous Pyelogram)

IVP

This leaflet will give you the following information:

- What is an IVP?
- How should I prepare?
- What will I experience during and after the procedure?
- Who interprets the results and how do I get them?

What is an IVP?



An IVP is an x ray examination of the kidneys, ureters and bladder (renal system).

An x ray dye / contrast is injected into the vein (usually in your arm or the back of your hand). This will circulate through your blood to the kidneys and will eventually travel through the ureters and bladder where it will be excreted when you pass urine.

The x ray contrast allows us to see renal anatomy on x ray film.

How Should I Prepare

- Your doctor will give you detailed instructions on how to prepare for your IVP study.
- You must not eat after midnight on the night before your examination.
- You should inform your doctor of any medications you are taking, if you have any allergies or if you are a diabetic. If you are a diabetic please inform the x ray staff as soon as you arrive at the

department and bring your medication and appropriate food with you.

- Please take your usual prescribed medications unless clearly advised otherwise by your doctor.
- Do not bring any valuables to the hospital with you (e.g. jewelry).
- Women of child bearing years should inform their doctor if they think there is any possibility that they are pregnant. Current radiation legislation policy dictates that female patients who have not gone through the menopause must have had a period within ten days before the x ray test.

Are there any risks?

- The injection you have for this test is generally very safe. However it is important to inform the Radiographer if you have had previous reactions to x ray dye or if you suffer from asthma (please bring your inhalers with you to the x ray department).
- Many patients have this injection in x ray department's very day however there is a slight risk of a reaction. It is not uncommon for patients to experience a warm flushing sensation or metallic taste in their mouth when the x ray dye is injected; this will pass after a few minutes. On rare occasions some patients may experience a rash or shortness of breath. If this occurs please tell a member of staff immediately and do not worry - the Radiologist and Radiographer are trained to recognise and treat these symptoms and if necessary there are other doctors close at hand.
- It is important to remember that the benefit of the examination has been weighed against any potential risks and that your doctor is also considering the risk of missing a serious problem by not having the test done at all.
- Please talk to your doctor if you have any concerns or worries.

What will I experience during and after the procedure?

- When you arrive at the X ray department you will be shown to a cubicle to get undressed. You will be provided with a gown and dressing gown before being escorted into the examination room.

- The equipment will consist of an x ray table and x ray camera. The x ray camera is suspended over the table. The Radiologist and Radiographer will remain in the room throughout the test however they will stand behind a lead screen while taking the x ray images. Please talk to the X ray staff if you have any concerns or worries.
- The Radiographer will take you through a brief questionnaire regarding any allergies, medical history and any medications you are currently taking. Please remember to have a list of any medications you may be taking for heart or kidney conditions.
- You will then be asked to lie on your back on the x ray table. The Radiographer will take one or two x ray images of your abdomen.
- A Radiologist or Radiographer will now insert a small needle into a ven in your arm or the back of the hand. This needle will stay in place for the duration of the test but will be removed before you leave the department. You will be given an injection of x ray dye / contrast through this needle. You may experience a warm flushing sensation throughout your body or a metallic taste in your mouth - do not worry this is normal and will pass after a few minutes.
- The Radiographer will now take some more x ray images of your abdomen - usually five to six. This will take approximately 35 minutes but does depend on how long it takes your kidneys to process the x ray dye. You may have a tight band placed across your abdomen to help better visualize the renal system.
- Before the end of the examination you may be asked to go to the bathroom an empty your bladder before a final x ray image is taken.
- Once the Radiologist is satisfied that all the necessary images have been taken; the Radiographer will remove the needle from your arm and will show you to your changing cubicle.
- An IVP takes approximately 35 minutes.

After the examination

- After the examination you may resume your normal diet.
- The x ray dye will not discolor your urine or cause any discomfort when you urinate. If you experience such symptoms after the IVP examination please contact your GP promptly for advice.

Who interprets the results and how do I get them?

A radiologist will analyze the images and send a report to the doctor who referred you for the IVP in the first place. Your doctor / consultant will either contact you with the results within a week or will give you the results on your next appointment. Please contact your doctor's office to clarify any instructions that they may have given you.

If you have any further questions please contact your doctor or the x ray department (066 7149869).

Please cancel your appointment by phone if you are unable to come - preferably at least one day before the examination date.

Questions

We understand that there may be questions or queries that you would like to be answered and sometimes you may forget what you want to ask.

The space below has been included for you to write down any questions or queries that you may have.