

Patient information

Proctogram – Appointment Details

Imaging Department

There is no need for any special preparation before this examination.

Your hospital doctor or family doctor has advised that you need a Proctogram. Any alternative treatments or procedures will have been discussed at your initial consultation with your referring practitioner.

What is a Proctogram?

A Proctogram is an X-ray examination of the last part of the large bowel, the rectum and looks at how the rectum empties. It is carried out by a radiologist (a doctor specialising in X-rays) or a Specialist Radiographer. There will also be a radiographer and assistant present.

What are the benefits of having a Proctogram?

This procedure will help us make the correct diagnosis, so we will be able to give you the correct treatment.

What are the risks of having a Proctogram?

We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. Each X-ray examination gives us a small additional dose. The dose varies with each examination. Everything is done within the X-ray department to minimise this dose.

Patients of Child-bearing Age: X-rays may be harmful to an unborn child, especially in the early stages of pregnancy. If you are pregnant or there is any possibility of you being pregnant, please contact the X-ray department before your appointment.

If you are worried about any of these risks, please speak to your Doctor or a member of their team.

What will happen if I don't have a proctogram?

Your diagnosis and treatment may be delayed.

The examination

On arrival in the department you will be escorted to a cubicle and asked to undress and put on a gown. You may like to bring your own dressing gown with you to wear.

You will be asked to drink some barium 45 minutes before your procedure. This will show up your small bowel on the x-rays.

In the X-ray room you will be asked to lie on your side on the X-ray table.

The radiologist/radiographer will put a small tube into your back passage and barium mixed with porridge will be put through this tube into your bowel. X-rays are taken whilst you are asked to strain and relax your rectum. The tube is removed and you will then be asked to sit on a special commode chair to empty your bowel whilst x-rays are taken. When the examination is over you will be shown to the toilet.

During the examination every care is taken to maintain your privacy and only the necessary staff will remain in the room.

After the examination

Continue to eat and drink normally.

The barium can cause slight constipation for a day or so afterwards. This can be avoided by drinking plenty of fluids. You may notice that your motions are paler than usual – this is due to the barium.

If you are allowed unlimited drinks, an extra pint of fluid per day over the next couple of days will help pass the barium.

Results

The results of your X-ray examination will be sent to the doctor who requested the examination.

Cancellations

If you are unable to keep this appointment, please let us know as soon as possible and we will arrange another for you.

If you fail to cancel and do not attend you will be discharged back to the care of the referring clinician.

Transport

If your medical condition or mobility needs mean that you cannot get to your appointment any other way and you require transport you should ring the Patient Transport Services (PTS) who will arrange one for you.

Tel: 0151 706 4676

Car parking

Car parking for visitors and patients is available at the Q-Park multi-storey car park located on Prescot Street, L6 1LY.

For those with walking difficulties, there is a shuttle bus service operating between Q-Park and The Royal Liverpool University Hospital. The bus operates Monday to Friday, 6am-8pm. If you find you are waiting a while for the bus, the driver's number is displayed on the Q-Park exit.

Parking for Blue Badge holders is free at the Mount Vernon Street entrance. However, parking is limited, and you are advised to allow sufficient time for parking as you may need to redirect to the nearby Q-Park.

Please bring this leaflet with you when you attend the X-ray department.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

If you have any further questions, or require further information, please contact the Radiology Appointments Office:

Tel: 0151 706 2759

Author: Fluoroscopy Department, Imaging

Review date: September 2028

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

يمكن توفير جميع المعلومات المتعلقة بالمرضى الموافق عليهم من قبل انتمان المستشفى عند الطلب بصيغ أخرى، بما في ذلك لغات أخرى وبطرق تسهل قراءتها وبالحروف الطباعية الكبيرة وبالصوت وبطريقة برايل للمكفوفين وبطريقة مون والكترونيا.

所有經信托基金批准的患者資訊均可以其它格式提供，包括其它語言、易讀閱讀軟件、大字

體、音頻、盲文、穆恩體 (Moon) 盲文和電子格式，敬請索取。

در صورت تمایل می‌توانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاری پینوهندیدار بهو نه‌خوشانه‌ی له‌لایین تراسته‌وه پمسه‌ند کراون، نه‌گهر داوا بکریت له فورماته‌کانی تردا بریتی له زمانه‌کانی تر، نیزی رید (هاسان خویندنه‌وه)، چاپی گه‌وره، شریتی ده‌نگ، هیلی موون و ئلیکترونیکی همیه.

所有经信托基金批准的患者信息均可以其它格式提供，包括其它语言、易读阅读软件、大字
体、音频、盲文、穆恩体 (Moon) 盲文和电子格式，敬请索取。

Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhadda kale, sida luqadda kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.