

## Patient information

### Sialography Appointment Details

#### Imaging Department

#### Before Your Examination

There is no need for any special preparation before this examination. You should eat and drink normally.

#### Please tell us if you have:

- Heart murmur, an artificial heart valve, heart valve problems or if you have had rheumatic fever.
- Severe asthma.
- A known allergy to Iodine

**Female patients if you are pregnant or there is any possibility of you being pregnant, please contact the X-ray department before your appointment.**

Your hospital doctor or family doctor (GP) has advised that you need a Sialogram. You may wish to discuss alternative treatments or procedures. Please ask a doctor or nurse if alternative treatments or procedures are available.

#### What is a sialogram?

A sialogram is a simple test to show if there are any problems within one of your salivary glands, using a colourless fluid or contrast agent (X-ray dye).

#### What are the benefits of having a sialogram?

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

#### The risks of having a sialogram include:

- **Allergy to Iodine**  
The dye contains Iodine and therefore any patients who are allergic to Iodine should not have this procedure carried out.

**Please also tell us if you are asthmatic or if you have any serious allergies to any other substances.**

- **Heart murmurs**

If you have any heart valve problems, an artificial heart valve, a history of having had rheumatic fever, or any known heart murmurs, you will need to have antibiotics before this procedure. Please let us know before your appointment so that this can be arranged.

- **X-rays**

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.

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

## **The examination**

- A fine sterile plastic tube is inserted a short way into the opening of the duct that leads to your salivary gland, either just under the front of your tongue, or on the inside of your cheek.
- Some dye is slowly introduced into the tube and this then fills up the gland. The dye shows up on the X-ray and so it will reveal any areas of abnormality.
- Usually three or four X-rays are taken and then the tube is removed and you are free to go home.

## **Will it hurt?**

This is usually a painless procedure, although you may feel some tightness in your gland as the dye is introduced.

## **How long will it take?**

Generally you should allow 30 minutes although most patients will be completed in a much shorter time.

## **After the examination**

Your gland may feel slightly swollen for a day or two and you may also be aware of a bad taste in your mouth as some of the dye continues to empty from the gland. However this should settle down quite quickly.

## **Results**

The results of your X-ray examination will be sent to the doctor who requested it. If you have been asked to make a follow-up appointment with the referring doctor after the examination you should allow at least two weeks so that the information has time to be sent to the clinic.

## **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 not be sent another appointment.**

## **Transport**

If you have been referred to us from clinic and usually have an ambulance to bring you for your appointment, please contact the Appointments Office as soon as possible.

If you have been referred to us by your GP and require an ambulance please contact your GP surgery.

### **Car parking**

Car parking for visitors and patients is available at the Q-Park multi-storey car park located across the road from the front entrance of the hospital. Vehicle entry to the car park is on Epworth Street which is off Erskine Street. The car park is open 24 hours a day seven days a week and charges apply. The car park is continually monitored by CCTV and parking attendants.

There are disabled spaces within the car park. If you require help with parking ask a parking host at the car park entrance. There is a bus shuttle service for patients with mobility problems which operates Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm from Q-Park to the Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

**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 Appointments Office:**

**Tel: 0151 706 2759**

**Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2759**

**NHS 111 Service**

**Tel: 111**

**Author: Imaging Department**

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

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