

Introduction

Your doctor has referred you to the Radiology department for an evacuating proctogram examination. This is a specialised X-ray examination that provides information on how the last 10-15cm of your large bowel - your rectum - is working. The results of this test give us an indication as to how best to treat you.

Is there any preparation?

No specific preparation is necessary. The weight limit for the equipment for this examination is 23 stone (150kg). Please contact the department if your weight exceeds this.

If you are a female aged between 12 and 55, your procedure should be carried out within the first 10 days after your period starts, to ensure that you are not pregnant. If this appointment falls outside the first 10 days, please contact our office on 01603 288469 to re-arrange your appointment. However, if you have an IUCD (coil) fitted or have been on the contraceptive pill/implant for three months you can ignore this advice.

Because space is limited please do not arrive in the department until 10 minutes before your appointment time and please do not bring more companions than you really need.

Please do not bring anyone requiring supervision with you. Only the patient is allowed in to the examination room due to the use of X-rays.

What happens during the examination?

The examination length is approximately 20 minutes. Liquid barium, followed by barium paste, will be introduced in to your rectum via two separate small tubes.

You will then be asked to sit on a special chair and four series of pictures (moving X-ray pictures) will be taken as follows:

1. At rest;
2. With your pelvic muscles contracted;
3. Straining but not opening your bowels; and
4. With you attempting to open your bowels.

After the examination, you will be shown to a private toilet in the immediate vicinity, where you can re-dress before you leave the Department.

Are there any side effects?

There are no known side effects from this examination. The barium liquid and paste is expelled almost immediately as part of the examination or very shortly afterwards in the toilet.

Your privacy and dignity is important to us. The procedure is usually performed with two staff members in the room. The pictures are obtained with the staff members behind a screen, meaning that they cannot see you but you can hear and talk to them.

When will you get the results?

The Radiology Department will send a report of your scan to the Doctor who requested it.

Finally

Some of your questions should have been answered by this leaflet, but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the Doctors looking after you.

Access to Radiology

How to find us:	East Outpatients entrance and follow the signs to Level 2 Radiology and then Fluoroscopy. You can find more information at: www.nnuh.nhs.uk
Hospital transport:	If you are eligible for hospital transport, please telephone 0333 240 4100
Contact details:	Telephone: 01603 286108 Email: radiology@nnuh.nhs.uk Website: http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/departments/radiology-nnuh

