

DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY

Intravenous Urogram (IVU)

The leaflet tells you about having an intravenous urogram (IVU). It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for such discussions. If you have any questions about the procedure please ask the doctor who has referred you for the test or the department which is going to perform it.

The Radiology department

Radiologists are doctors specially trained to interpret the X-ray pictures and carry out more complex examinations. They are supported by Radiographers who are highly trained professionals and carry out X-rays and other imaging procedures.

What is an Intravenous Urogram (IVU)?

An injection of an X-ray dye (called contrast medium) will be given via a small plastic tube (cannula) into the vein in your arm or hand, to make the kidneys show up better than on an ordinary plain X-ray. There is greater detail of their internal structure. It is also possible to assess roughly how well each kidney is working.

Are there any risks?

As with all X-rays, there is a slight risk associated with ionising radiation, and also from the injection of contrast medium. In particular, female patients who are or might be pregnant *must* inform a member of staff in advance.

All X-ray procedures involve exposure to radiation in varying amounts. In all X-ray examinations, the amount of radiation is kept to the minimum necessary. However, during the IVU, you will be exposed to the same amount of radiation as you would receive from the atmosphere (change to environment) over a period of about 14 months.

The injection you have for this test has a low risk of complications. Many people have this injection in X-ray departments every day. However, with every injection of the contrast medium, there is a slight risk of a reaction. It is not uncommon for people to feel a little bit warm as the contrast medium flows around the body or experience a metallic taste in their mouth. You will be questioned about any allergies, previous reactions to X-ray dye, and any common health complaints prior to the injection being administered.

All risks are relative, and it is important to remember that the risk of missing a serious problem by not having the test done is much greater than any risks described above.

Are you required to make any special preparations?

Please do not drink anything for 2 hours prior to your examination; however, you may eat as normal during this time. Specific instructions are given in your appointment letter. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the Radiology Department. Please also tell the radiology department if you have had a similar examination recently.

If you are diabetic

If you are diabetic and/or take a drug called Metformin, please inform the Radiology department so that you can be given special instructions about what you should do before and after the IVU.

If you are pregnant

It is essential that any woman who is pregnant, or might be pregnant, notifies the Radiology department in advance. You are only able to have this examination in specific circumstances when pregnant and it is likely that another procedure will be carried out instead.

Can you bring a relative/friend?

Yes, but for reasons of safety, they will not be able to accompany you into the examination room, except in very special circumstances.

Who will you see?

You will see a Radiographer and an assistant. A Radiographer who has completed additional training will give you your injection. A Radiologist or another Doctor may also give you the injection.

What happens during the investigation?

- Before you are taken into the X-ray room, you will be asked to change into a gown and to visit the toilet to empty your bladder.
- You will then be taken into the X-ray room and asked to lie on the table. An ordinary X-ray of your abdomen will be taken to start with.
- The Radiographer will ask you about any allergies or asthma, diabetes, or any heart or lung problems.
- After this, you will have the injection of X-ray dye through a small tube (cannula) inserted into a vein in your arm or hand.
- You will then have further X-rays taken of your abdomen (between 2 and 8 usually, depending upon your symptoms). On some occasions, you may have a tight band placed across your abdomen to improve the detail of your kidneys for some of the pictures.

Will it be uncomfortable?

You may feel some slight discomfort where the cannula is placed, but you should not feel any pain during the examination.

How long will it take?

You should be in the Department between 30 and 60 minutes, depending on how many X-rays are taken.

Are there any side-effects?

Not usually. You may feel warm or experience a metallic taste in your mouth during the injection, but this is completely normal and the symptoms should pass quickly.

Can you eat and drink afterwards?

Yes. We ask that you drink plenty of water for a couple of hours after the examination to flush the dye out of your kidneys.

When will you get the results?

The X-ray pictures will be examined after your visit and a written report on the findings sent to your referring doctor (Trust Consultant or GP).

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. Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure. Please do not bring any children with you to the appointment, as they will not be permitted to enter the examination room.

Access to Radiology

How to find us:	To access Radiology for your appointment, please follow sign to the Urgent Care Centre/Minors (Emergency Department) in front of Carpark G. On entering, turn immediately left and follow signs to the CT/MR Reception. Please note the change in location, which is likely to be different from your previous visits to Radiology. www.nnuh.nhs.uk
Hospital transport:	To enquire about hospital transport telephone 0333 240 4100
Contact details:	Telephone: 01603 286048 (Outpatients) / 01603 286544 (GP patients) Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm. Email: nnu-tr.radiology@nhs.net Website: www.nnuh.nhs.uk

