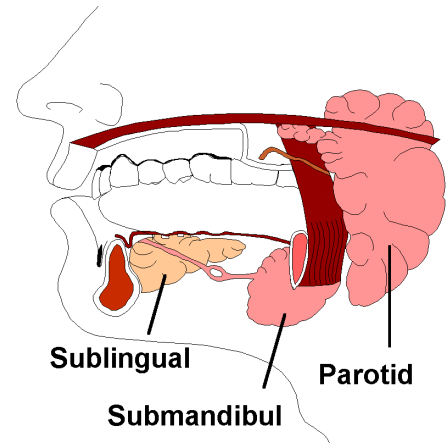


DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY

Sialogram

What is a Sialogram?

A Sialogram is an X-ray study of the salivary glands. These saliva glands help to keep your mouth moist and aid swallowing. There are four large salivary glands - the parotid glands, (which are found at the side of the face below the ear), and the submandibular glands (lying in the hollow beneath the jawbone). To get X-ray pictures of them an iodine-based X-ray contrast dye is used to show up the tubes within the gland. Your doctor will have explained why the test is necessary and which of the four main glands we need to examine.



How do I prepare for my examination?

- No special preparations are necessary.
- Just before the examination begins you will be asked to remove your dentures and any jewellery.
- If you are of childbearing age (12-55), please inform us immediately on one of the below contact numbers if you could be pregnant.
- If you have a very swollen gland or face that may be infected, we will not be able to do the test.
- If you know that you are allergic to iodine or to the X-ray dyes used in the X-ray department, telephone the department for advice as we may not be able to do the test, please see contact details below.

What happens when I arrive?

You will be booked in for your examination and asked to sit in a waiting area until your appointment time.

What does it involve?

The examination is performed by a Radiographer Advanced Practitioner. A Radiographer or Assistant Practitioner may also be present. The examination and any associated risks will be explained to you before the examination begins and you will be asked if you have any questions.

During the examination you will be asked to lie on an x-ray table and the inside of your mouth will be examined with the aid of a bright light. You will be asked to turn your head to the side at some points during the examination. Some oily fluid (contrast) will be introduced via a very small tube into the salivary gland duct (which opens inside your mouth).

The flow of the contrast, which shows up under x-ray on a TV monitor and several x-ray pictures will be taken.

The tube will be removed, and you may be given some lemon juice to wash around your mouth. This will make you produce lots of saliva, finally another X-ray will be taken.

How long will it take?

This examination usually takes 30 minutes to complete but you may spend up to 60 minutes in the department.

After the examination?

- You may have a slightly oily taste in your mouth, but this is quite harmless.
- The Radiology Registrar or Radiographer Advanced Practitioner will carefully analyse the images later and provide a detailed report to the referring consultant or GP.
- You may eat and drink normally as soon as the test is finished.

Are there any side/aftereffects?

- Sometimes people can have an allergic reaction to the X-ray contrast dyes. This can be treated in the hospital.
- During the test, people frequently notice a slight ache in the face. This usually passes quickly.
- Sometimes people notice swelling or aching in the face after the test. If this becomes painful or lasts longer than 3 days, contact your GP.

Further Information

If you have any concerns or questions about your Sialogram please contact the Fluoroscopy department, details are listed below.

Access to Radiology

How to find us:	To access Radiology for your appointment, please follow signs to Ambulatory Majors (Emergency Department) in front of Carpark G. On entering, turn immediately left and follow signs to the Fluoro/CT/MR Reception located down the green corridor. 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: Fluoroscopy Appointments on 01603 286108; this phone is usually staffed 8am-3pm Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays with an answerphone available at all other times. Please leave a message and your call will be returned within 2 working days. Alternatively, please call 01603 286103 Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm. Email: fluoro@nnuh.nhs.uk Website: www.nnuh.nhs.uk