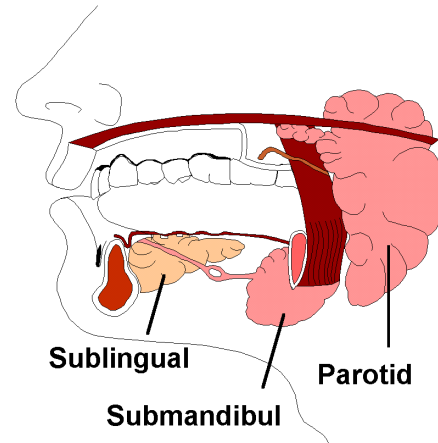


DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY

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 parotids, (which are found at the side of the face below the ear), and the submandibulars (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 a woman of childbearing age (12-55), you will be asked if could be pregnant.
- If you have a very swollen gland or face that may be infected, we will not do the test.
- If you know that you are allergic to iodine or to the X-ray dyes used in the X-ray department please telephone 01603 286103 between 9am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday, for advice as we may not be able to do the test.

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 Radiology Registrar, a doctor who specialises in x-ray procedures, or an Advanced Practitioner Radiographer. 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, is watched on a TV monitor and several x-rays pictures will be taken.

The tube will be removed and you may be given some lemon-flavoured fluid to wash around your mouth. This will make you produce lots of saliva and then 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 Advanced Practitioner Radiographer 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/after effects?

- 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 telephone the Radiology Department on 01603 286103, 9am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Access to Radiology

How to find us:	East Outpatients entrance and follow the signs to Level 2 Radiology. 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 Monday to Friday 8am – 6pm Email: nnu-tr.fluoroappointments@nhs.net Website: http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/departments/radiology-nnuh

