

Adults Having Intravenous Urography (IVU)

Will it be uncomfortable?

You may feel some minor discomfort from the pinprick of the injection.

How long will it take?

The duration of this procedure will vary a little depending partly on how quickly the x-ray contrast medium is passed out but we would expect to keep you no longer than one hour. On some occasions, however it may be necessary to keep you longer or ask you to return later for more x-rays.

Can you eat and drink normally afterwards?

Yes you will be able to eat and drink normally.

When will you get the results?

After the procedure, the images will be examined by the radiologist, who will then write a report on the findings. This may take some time to reach your referring doctor, but this is normally within 14 days.

If you have a query?

If you have a query about having an IVU, please ring the Imaging / Radiology Department on the number shown on your appointment letter, between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

What is an IVU?

Intravenous urography is an x-ray procedure which is used to assess the urinary tract including the kidneys, ureters, and bladder. To do this, x-rays of the abdomen are taken at intervals after injecting a colourless fluid called contrast medium into a vein. The contrast medium reduces the amount of x-rays passing through the kidneys, ureters and bladder which makes them appear on the x-ray images.

Are there any risks?

There are slight risks associated with ionising radiation and also from the injection. Radiation risks are particularly important in pregnancy so 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. During an IVU you will be exposed to the same amount of radiation as you would receive from the atmosphere over a period of about fourteen months.

The injection usually causes nothing more than a warm feeling passing around your body but there is a slight risk of an allergic reaction such as a skin rash. However, it can be associated with more severe allergic reactions such as an asthmatic attack or other significant complications. The doctors in the Imaging Department are trained to deal with any complications and it should

be emphasised, the risk is small. However, if you have had a reaction to a previous injection of contrast material given for a CT examination or previous IVU it is important you tell the radiographer at the time of your examination.

Despite these risks, your doctor will believe that the risks from missing a disorder by not having the examination are greater.

Are you required to make any special preparations?

Yes. This is most important. The accompanying appointment letter contains specific instructions about what and when to eat and drink beforehand and if you need to take any special medicine before coming for the examination.

If possible, please bring your own night wear and dressing gown. However if you do not have such clothes, a hospital gown and dressing gown will be provided.

Can you bring a relative/ friend?

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

When you arrive

If you are diabetic, or a female patient who thinks they might be pregnant, please inform the radiographer. You will be shown to a cubicle where you should undress, and remove jewellery and watches etc. You will be provided with a basket for your personal items which you keep with you at all times.

Who will you see?

You will see a radiographer and possibly an assistant. The radiographer or sometimes a doctor will give the injection.

What happens during the investigation?

Before you are taken into the x-ray room you will be asked to visit the toilet and empty your bladder. You will then be taken into the x-ray room and be asked to lie on the table where an ordinary x-ray of your abdomen will be taken. The contrast medium will then be injected into a vein in your arm. Several more x-rays spread over about 20 minutes will be taken as the contrast passes through your system. Before the end of the examination you may be asked to go to the toilet again to empty your bladder. The procedures will vary a little from patient to patient depending on their particular problem.