

Department of Diagnostic Imaging
(802) 747-1755

INTRAVENOUS PYELOGRAM (IVP) PREPARATION

WHAT IS AN INTRAVENEIOUS PYELOGRAM (IVP)?

This is a diagnostic x-ray examination of your urinary tract (kidneys, ureters, and bladder) that will be performed by a radiologic technologist. A technologist has been trained in the proper use of x-ray equipment. A radiologist is a medical doctor who has specialized in the use of x-rays and other imaging media for medical diagnosis and will interpret your IVP examination.

NOTE: Any woman who is pregnant, or could possibly be pregnant, should let your doctor know before proceeding with this exam.

HOW DOES ONE PREPARE FOR THIS EXAM?

To prepare for your exam, follow these instructions carefully.

You can purchase the following medicine at your local pharmacy:

- Magnesium Citrate – One (1) bottle

NOTE: If you have severe diarrhea or considerable rectal bleeding, consult your doctor before taking the laxative requested below.

On the day before your exam:

Have a light meal for dinner/supper.

At 6 p.m., drink the Magnesium Citrate along with a large glass of water. Have no solid foods to eat from then until the completion of the IVP study.

On the day of your exam, you may have a clear liquid breakfast. Clear liquids include any liquid you can see through (i.e., chicken broth, apple juice, cranberry juice, tea, Gatorade, etc.).

If you suffer from kidney failure or multiple myeloma, you should have your regular liquid intake. If you are an insulin dependent diabetic, check with your doctor regarding the amount of medication you may take prior to the exam.

Diabetic Patients

You may have a light breakfast the day of the exam. If you take Glucophage , Metformin, Glucovance, Metaglip or Avandamet for your diabetes do not take it the day of your exam and 48 hours after your exam. You will receive instructions for restarting any of these diabetic medicines.

HOW MUCH TIME SHOULD YOU ALLOW FOR YOUR EXAM?

You will need to arrive at the hospital 15 minutes before your exam to register at Outpatient Registration if you have not been pre-registered over the phone. If you have pre-registered, please come directly to the Diagnostic Imaging Department for the exam. The average time for an IVP is approximately 1 hour. Therefore, you should allow 2 hours for the entire time. If your kidneys are obstructed, it may take longer. Both Registration and Diagnostic Imaging are located on the main floor of the hospital. Your doctor may have ordered a combination of exams to be done at one time. If so, you must allow enough time for each exam.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING AN IVP EXAM?

For this exam, you will be asked to remove your clothes and will be given a pair of pants and a hospital gown to wear. Upon entering the examination room, the technologist or nurse may ask you some questions about your medical problems and allergy history. If you have had this examination before and experienced any discomfort or reaction, tell the technologist or nurse. You will then be positioned on a table on your back and a preliminary film will be taken to ensure that you are properly prepared. The nurse will start an IV (intravenous catheter) and an IV contrast will then be injected into a vein by either syringe or from an IV bottle. This contrast material is filtered by your kidneys and outlines your urinary tract. During the injection, you may feel warm and flushed. This will only last a moment or so and is not cause for concern. Let the technologist or nurse know if you experience any discomfort. The technologist will then take standard x-rays in certain time frames as requested by the radiologist. Toward the end of your examination, you may be asked to empty your bladder so that a post voiding film can be taken. These films will be reviewed by the radiologist and at times, more films may be needed.

HOW DO YOU FIND OUT THE RESULTS OF YOUR EXAM?

The radiologist will study your exam and send a written report to your doctor. You must call or make arrangements with your doctor to discuss the results.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER YOUR EXAM . . .

The contrast media will be eliminated through your urine. Your urine will not change color. You may resume your regular diet and be sure to drink plenty of fluids after the exam, unless told otherwise by your doctor.

If you have any questions concerning the IVP exam, you may call the Diagnostic Imaging Department at (802) 747-1755.