

Myelogram

What is a Myelogram?

A myelogram is a special x-ray to check your spinal cord or nerves. A small amount of iodine dye is injected into the spinal canal with a spinal needle.

To Prepare

- A responsible adult will need to come with you to drive you home.
- Do not eat solid food for 4 hours before the test.
- If you are taking blood thinners, please hold as instructed. If you have any questions about this please call 419-563-9342.
- No alcohol for 24 hours before the procedure.
- If you are allergic to iodine, please let your doctor know.

What to Expect

- Once you have registered, you will be directed to the radiology department
- You will be asked to change into a hospital gown for the procedure.
- The radiologist will talk to you before the procedure and answer any questions you may have.
- During the procedure, you will lie on an x-ray table. You will be positioned on either your stomach or your side.
- A small area of your back will be cleaned with betadine and a covered with a sterile drape.
- The doctor will inject the site with numbing medicine, this may cause a temporary stinging sensation.
- Once numbed, the doctor will put a needle between the vertebrae into the spinal canal.
- If you feel any pain, tell the doctor where and how it hurts. You should feel pressure but no pain.
- Once the spinal canal is reached, dye is injected.
- After dye is injected, the needle will be removed and a band-aid will be applied to the site.
- If the procedure was performed in the x-ray room, images will be taken in different positions.
- If indicated, you will then be taken to the CT scanner for further imaging.

After the Procedure

- For the next 24 hours, you should lie down with your head slightly elevated as much as possible.
- Resume your regular diet and drink plenty of fluids.
- No alcohol for 24 hours after procedure.
- The most common problems are headache and nausea. These are usually mild and pass within 48 hours.
- You will be given further instructions at time of discharge.
- A radiologist will review the images and send a report to your family doctor.

If you have any questions or concerns, please ask the radiology department staff or contact your doctor.

Bucyrus Hospital

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Galion Hospital

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Ontario Hospital

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