

Cystogram - A Patients Guide

What is a Cystogram?

A Cystogram allows us to see how your bladder fills and empties. Your doctor will have explained why you need to have this done.

How do I prepare for my examination?

No preparation is required for this examination

What happens when I arrive?

On arrival in the X-Ray Department, you will be asked to change into a gown. Your clothes will be placed in a bag and brought with you to the examination room. You will need to empty your bladder before the exam so you will be shown the nearest toilet. When the time comes for your test, you will be taken into the X-Ray room.

If you are a woman of childbearing age, you will be asked if you are pregnant.

What does it involve?

The Radiologist will talk to you about exactly what is going to happen. A Radiographer and nurse may also be present.

You will be positioned on the x-ray couch on your back. If you do not already have a urinary catheter in place, one will be gently inserted. This will involve your pubic area being cleaned and a small tube passed down your urethra and into your bladder. A small amount of x-ray dye is then passed into your bladder via the catheter. As the dye is introduced x-rays will be taken. You may be asked to move slightly during the procedure. Once your bladder has filled the contrast will be drained via the catheter or the tube maybe removed and you will be asked to urinate. X-ray images will be taken as this is done.

How will I get my results?

The Radiologist will want to carefully analyse the images later and provide a detailed report to your referring consultant.

How long will it take?

The test usually takes 20 - 30 minute and you should expect to spend up to 40 minutes in the department.

After the examination?

You will be able to dress and leave the department. You should be able to go home as soon as the test is finished.

Are there any side effects or after effects?

We would not expect this test to have any lasting effects. There is a small risk of introducing infection with the catheter.