

Having an X-ray of your kidneys, ureters and bladder (intravenous urogram, IVU)

Department of Radiology

Information for Patients

Last reviewed: November 2023

Next review: November 2026

Leaflet number: 11 Version: 9

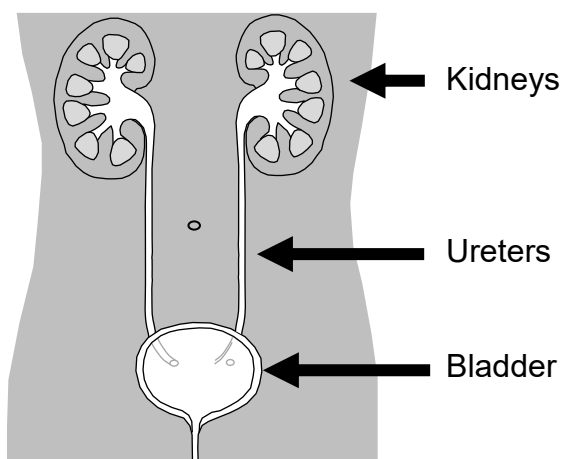
Introduction

If you are an outpatient please read your appointment letter carefully to check which hospital your appointment is at. This leaflet tells you about your test. Please read it carefully as it has important information and instructions.

What is an IVU test?

An IVU (intravenous urogram) is an X-ray test that looks at:

- your kidneys,
- the tubes that join your kidneys to your bladder (the ureters)
- and your bladder.



To show up these organs we will give you an injection of a colourless liquid that shows up on X-rays (contrast liquid) into a vein in your arm.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

How to I get ready for my test?

- **Do not eat for 3 hours before your test.** This will help keep you from being sick if the contrast injection makes you feel sick.
- **Keeping drinking a usual amount of liquid until 1 hour before the test.** You can have tea, coffee, water, squash, milk or similar drink. No fizzy drinks. Drinking fluid helps to keep your kidneys hydrated and working well.
- **Do not drink in the last hour before your test.** Stopping drinking at this time will make the contrast in your X-ray pictures clearer.
- **If you are taking tablets or medicines for any reason, do not stop taking them** without first talking about it with your doctor.
- **Please bring with you any sprays, inhalers or angina tablets** that you are taking.
- **If you have diabetes**, please talk about these eating and drinking instructions with your usual diabetes nursing team **as soon as you get this appointment.**

Important information

The contrast liquid used in your procedure has iodine in it. It is cleared from your body by your kidneys in your pee (urine) or at your routine dialysis if you have dialysis.

Please tell the X-ray staff when you arrive if:

- **You are allergic to iodine or rubber (latex)**, have any other allergies or have asthma.
- **You have had a reaction in the past to a contrast liquid injected into a vein (intravenous contrast)**, the dye used for kidney X-rays and CT scanning and X-rays of your heart and blood vessels.
- **You are on renal dialysis or have any problems with your kidneys.**
- **You have diabetes.**
- **There is any chance that you may be pregnant.**

The radiographer will ask you some questions about your health before the test starts. This to see if you might be allergic to the contrast liquid.

Some patients get a warm feeling and a metallic taste when the injection is given and sometimes may feel sick. If you do get these feelings they usually last about 1 minute. Please let the staff who are with you know if you get these feelings.

Some patients will also have the feeling that they are about to pee (pass urine) but they are not actually doing so. This is also normal.

What happens during my test?

- When you get to the radiology department, you will be shown to the waiting area.
- You will be shown to a cubicle so you can take off some of your clothes and put on a hospital gown.
- You will be taken into the X-ray room. We will talk to you about your test. You may ask any questions that you have.
- You will then be asked to lie down, flat on your back, on the X-ray table.
- You will have 1 or 2 X-ray pictures of your tummy.
- You will have a small tube (cannula) put into a vein. This is usually in 1 of your arms.
- You will then have the injection of the contrast liquid. Some patients get a warm feeling and a metallic taste when the injection is given and sometimes may feel sick. If you do get these feelings they usually last about 1 minute. Please let the staff who are with you know if you get these feelings. Some patients will also have the feeling that they are about to pee (pass urine) but they are not actually doing so. This is also normal.
- You will have 1 or 2 X-ray pictures taken about 20 minutes after the injection.
- Some patients may have more X-ray pictures taken if we want to see more of the contrast after it has passed through the kidneys.
- You may be asked to go to the toilet to pee (empty your bladder) and then come back into the X-ray room for 1 more X-ray.

Who will be doing my test?

The test will be done by someone who is trained to take X-rays (a radiographer). There may also be a radiology assistant in the room.

As we are a teaching hospital a student may also be in the room. If you do not want this, you can ask that a student is not in the room when you have your test..

How long will my test take?

The time will vary for each patient. Most tests take 1 hour but may take longer for some patients.

What happens after my test?

You can eat and drink as usual after the test. Drink a little more than normal for the rest of the day. This will help your kidneys to clear any more contrast liquid from your body.

Are there any risks?

Reaction to contrast liquid - Some patients may be allergic to the contrast liquid and may have symptoms such as feeling or being sick (nausea or vomiting), or a rash. If you get any of these symptoms at the hospital, tell the doctor, radiographer or other staff looking after you. If you start to have symptoms at home you should call your GP or call 111.

How do I get my results?

The results will not be given to you straight away. Your X-ray pictures will be looked at by a specialised X-ray doctor (Radiologist) and the results will be sent to the consultant or GP who wanted you to have this test. After your test we will tell you who the results will go to.

If you are an inpatient the results will be given to the doctors looking after you on the ward.

What are the risks from exposure to radiation in this test?

The main risk from exposure to X-rays is a higher risk of getting a cancer in the future. This risk is thought to be very small. We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. This comes from the sun, the food we eat, and the ground. Each test that uses X-rays gives a dose on top of this natural background radiation. The risks of radiation are slightly higher for an unborn child so we must ask some patients aged 10 to 55 years about their periods and possibility of being pregnant. The radiation from the X-rays during an IVU is equivalent to receiving about 12 months of natural background radiation.

The benefits of having this test are likely to outweigh any possible risks. The risks of not having the test could be greater. We try to keep your exposure to X-rays as low as possible.

What if I need to talk to someone?

If you have any questions or concerns, or cannot make the appointment:

Please call the radiology department on **0116 258 8765** and select **option 5**, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, excluding bank holidays.



اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

Previous reference:

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk