

Having a Sialogram

Patient leaflet

**If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format
please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.**

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Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil,
vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe
de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

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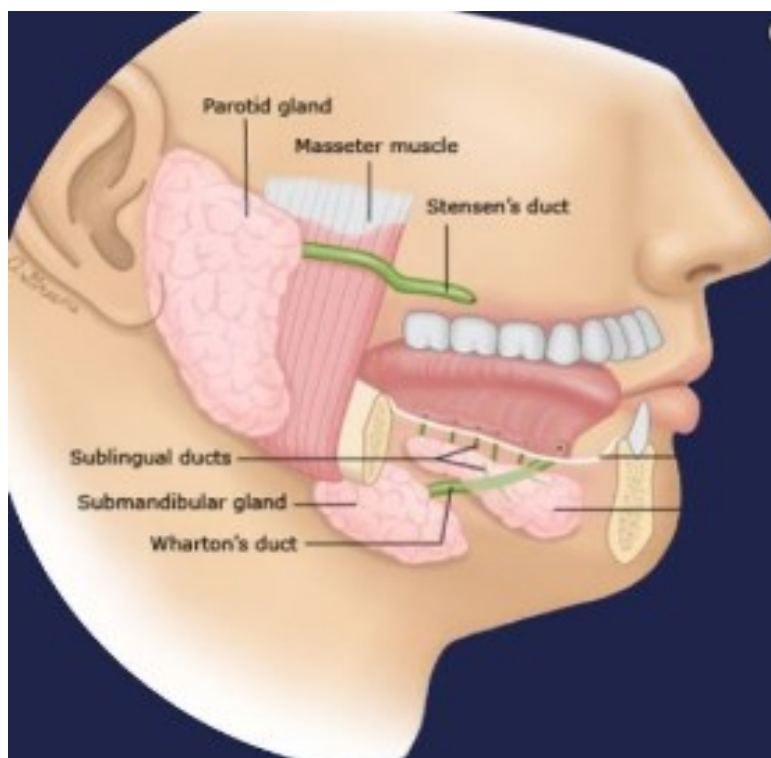
إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتنسيق
يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

Introduction

This leaflet aims to answer your questions about having a Sialogram. It explains the benefits, risks and alternatives, as well as what you can expect when you come to hospital. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor.

What is a Sialogram?

A Sialogram is an X-ray study of the salivary glands. These saliva glands help to keep your mouth moist and aid swallowing. There are four large salivary glands - the parotids, (which are found at the side of the face below the ear) and the submandibular (lying in the hollow beneath the jawbone). To get X-ray pictures of them an iodine based X-ray contrast dye is used to show up the tubes within the gland. Your doctor will have explained why the test is necessary and which of the four main glands we need to examine.



What to expect on your visit

What happens during a Sialogram?

When you first arrive, you will have some X-rays taken of your mandible to illustrate the salivary glands before the Sialogram. The Sialogram is performed by an Advanced Practitioner Radiographer. A radiographer or assistant practitioner may also be present. The examination and any associated risks will be explained to you before the examination begins and you will be asked if you have any questions.

During the examination you will be asked to lie on an X-Ray table and the inside of your mouth will be examined with the aid of a bright light. To help open up the salivary ducts within your mouth you will be asked to sip and hold a lemon flavour solution in your mouth for a few seconds. X-Ray dye (contrast) will be introduced via a very small tube into the salivary gland duct (which opens inside your mouth). The flow of the contrast, which shows up under X-ray, is watched on a TV monitor and several X-rays pictures will be taken with your head turned to the side at some points during the examination.

The tube will be removed and you may be given more of the lemon-flavoured fluid to wash around your mouth. This will make you produce lots of saliva and then another X-ray will be taken.

What happens when I arrive?

You will be booked in for your examination and asked to sit in a waiting area until your appointment time.

How long will it take?

This examination usually takes 30 minutes to complete but you may spend up to 60 minutes in the department.

What happens after the examination?

You may have a slight taste in your mouth but this is quite harmless. The Advanced Practitioner Radiographer will want to carefully look at the images later and provide a detailed report to the referring consultant or GP. You may eat and drink normally as soon as the test is finished.

Are there any side/after effects?

Sometimes people can have an allergic reaction to the X-ray contrast dyes. This can be treated in the hospital. During the test, people frequently notice a slight ache in the face. This usually passes quickly. Sometimes people notice swelling or aching in the face after the test. If this becomes painful or lasts longer than 3 days, contact your GP.

Finally

The pictures taken during the examination are studied carefully and a detailed report is produced. The results will be sent to the person who referred you for the test. They will discuss the results with you and any treatment you may need.

You may already have an appointment with the team who referred you. If not, please contact them to arrange one to discuss the results of this test.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call the Radiology Department via the number given on your appointment letter.

As this is a teaching hospital there may be students and observers present during your examination as part of their ongoing training. Please let the staff know if you do not wish any students to be present during your attendance.

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road,
Prescot,
Merseyside,
L35 5DR
Telephone:
0151 426 1600

St Helens Hospital
Marshalls Cross Road,
St Helens,
Merseyside,
WA9 3DA
Telephone:
01744 26633

Southport Hospital
Town Lane,
Kew,
Southport,
Merseyside,
PR8 6PNT
Telephone:
01704 547 471

Ormskirk Hospital
Wigan Road
Ormskirk,
L39 2AZ
Telephone:
01695 577 111