

Having a loopagram



Information for patients

Radiology



PROUD TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



This leaflet will give you information about having a loopogram procedure, why you are having it done and the risks involved with the procedure.

What is a loopogram?

A loopogram is a test to see the loop of bowel (called the conduit) that has been used as a substitute for your urinary bladder.

The procedure is performed in the X-ray Department and the staff involved are:

- a radiologist (an x-ray doctor) or an advanced practitioner radiographer who is trained to performed the test
- a radiographer who produces the x-ray images
- a healthcare support worker who assists the person performing the test

The procedure uses a type of x-ray called fluoroscopic imaging to view images in real time. An x-ray dye, called contrast, is also used. After the procedure the radiologist will review the images and the results will be sent to the doctor who referred you for the test.

Why do I need a loopogram?

This examination will help your doctor to make a correct diagnosis or decision about your treatment. You may be having a loopogram to look at your anatomy before or after any surgery, or, to check for any problems that may be causing you to have symptoms.

Are there any special preparations?

No special preparation is required. You can eat and drink as normal on the day and continue to take any medications as normal.

The contrast dye that is used contains iodine which some people are allergic to. **If you have had an allergic reaction to x-ray contrast in the past, or if you have a known allergy to iodine, you must tell your doctor. Alternatively, contact the X-ray Department on:**

- **0114 226 8000**

You may be admitted to a day case unit and may be given antibiotics prior to this procedure. Your appointment letter will explain what to do.

Female patients

If you are below the age of 55 years, you will be asked (if you still have regular periods) to confirm the first day of your last period. X-rays are used to perform the test, therefore we observe what is called a 10 day rule. This means that the test will **only** be performed between the 1st day and the 10th day of the start of your period. If you think there is any chance you could be pregnant, please ring the Radiology Department prior to your test.

What shall I bring with me?

Please bring a spare stoma bag as the bag will be removed. You might want to bring a dressing gown, slippers and reading material.

What does the procedure involve?

You will be asked to change into a hospital gown before being taken into the examination room. The radiologist / advanced practitioner will remove your stoma bag, clean the area and gently insert a catheter (small rubber tube) into your stoma.

The x-ray dye will either be injected into the stoma or run into the conduit through some tubing connected to the catheter, until the conduit and surrounding structures can be seen satisfactorily on the x-rays. X-ray pictures will then be taken.

Once we have the pictures we need, the catheter will then be removed.

The procedure should not be painful but you may experience some discomfort when the catheter is inserted.

The examination lasts approximately 20 minutes but may take longer. Please understand that you may have to wait a few minutes during your exam while the images are being checked. It is important that the images contain all the necessary information.

What will happen after the procedure?

No special care is necessary after the procedure and you can return to your usual daily activities. Any remaining contrast will empty into your stoma bag. Occasionally there is bleeding at the stoma site as the catheter is inserted and this may cause your urine to appear slightly pink.

Are there any risks?

There is a small risk of developing a urine infection. You should contact your doctor if you experience abdominal pain, shivers or sweats, or if your urine becomes discoloured or has an offensive smell in the days after the procedure.

This investigation involves exposure to x-rays. X-rays consist of a type of radiation known as ionising radiation. However, as this is a low dose examination, exposure to radiation is kept to a minimum. Generally, the amount of radiation you are exposed to during this procedure is equivalent to between a few days and a few years of exposure to natural radiation from the environment.

How do I get my results?

The radiologist will examine the pictures and a report will be sent to the doctor who sent you for the test. This report will be available to you at your outpatient follow-up appointment.

What should I do if I am worried when I get home?

If you have any problems when you get home, please contact either your GP or 111 for advice. Alternatively, if you are concerned please contact the Accident and Emergency Department.

Are there any alternative tests?

This should be discussed with the doctor that is referring you.



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