

HERNIOGRAPHY

What is it?

Your doctor may be uncertain whether or not you have a hernia on physical examination and herniography is a definitive examination to show if a hernial pouch is present.

What preparation is needed for the examination?

You should not eat or drink for 4 hours prior to the examination.

What exactly happens during the examination?

When you arrive in the Department either a radiographer, radiographer's helper or nurse will take you into a cubicle to get you changed for the examination. They will then take you into the fluoroscopic (x-ray) room, where the Consultant Radiologist (doctor) will explain the examination prior to performing it. Please feel free to ask the doctor any questions you may have. A little local anaesthetic is injected into the skin just below the umbilicus and a thin needle inserted through the abdominal wall. A contrast dye will then be injected through the needle into the cavity of the abdomen. When this is finished, the needle is taken out and you will be stood up in the fluoroscopic machine to allow the fluid to run down into the lower abdomen and pelvis, to fill any hernial sac. Several films will be taken.

Does Herniography hurt?

The procedure may be a little uncomfortable but is not painful and the examination is very safe.

How long will it take?

Approximately 30 minutes.

When will I get my results?

When you have had the examination, the radiographer will tell you how and approximately when you will get the results but they are usually sent to the doctor who referred you to us within 48 hours.

Aftercare

You may feel slightly sore at the injection site for an hour or so. If any severe pain develops in your abdomen, please contact the Department or your GP immediately.

Our contact number is 020 7908 2013.

HCA

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