

CAVERNOGRAM

What is it?

Impotence may be due to a number of factors. A cavernogram tests the pressure changes within the vein in the penis (corpora cavernosa), the erectile tissue of the penis and its response to drugs and perfusion. A patient who suffers from impotence may need to have a Cavernogram performed to see if there is a venous leak, which is a common cause of impotence. A Cavernogram tests the pressure changes within the veins in the penis (corpa cavernosa), the erectile tissue of the penis and its response to drugs and perfusion

What preparation is needed for the examination?

There is no special preparation required for this 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 x-ray room, where they will explain the examination to you. Please feel free to ask them any questions you may have.

The examination is performed by a Consultant Radiologist (doctor) and they will discuss your clinical history with you.

A small needle is inserted into each vein in the penis. This is easily tolerated and no anaesthetic is required. One of the needles is attached to a pressure monitor and the pressure within the vein is monitored continuously. A drug called Caverjet is injected and any rise in pressure is recorded. The veins are then filled with dilute contrast and the

relevant veins identified. This may need to be repeated if it is found that some of the veins are leaking. After the needles have been removed, the penis is bandaged for an hour to prevent bruising.

Does this procedure hurt?

After administration of the injection into the veins, a small percentage of patients may develop a prolonged and possibly painful erection.

How long will it take?

You should expect to be in the Department for at least one hour.

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

Some patients may develop a prolonged and possibly painful erection after the procedure. If the erection has not subsided within two hours, or if pain ensues before then, it can be simply reversed by a second injection, which should be administered here at the Princess Grace Hospital.

HCA

Department of Radiology
The Princess Grace Hospital

