

Care Gram

Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP)

Date of Test: _____ **Test Time:** _____

Welcome

Welcome to Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) Radiology Department. Your doctor has requested an Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP). This is a test of the urinary tract (kidneys, ureters, and bladder). It is done by a radiographer who is certified in the use of X-ray equipment. It will be read by a radiologist who is a doctor specializing in medical diagnosis by X-ray.

How the Test Works

X-rays pass through the soft tissues of the body, such as the urinary tract. For this test, a special medication called a contrast agent will be used. This will help the urinary tract show up as clearly as bones do. The medication travels through the blood to the kidneys to help the radiologist see if the kidneys are working right. The contrast agent then drains through the ureters (tubes) into the bladder, which will show up on the image.

Allowing Time

The test may take about an hour.

Special Lab Instructions

For this test, a contrast agent will be used. Guidelines have been established requiring some patients to have a blood test before having this injection. You may be asked to go to the Laboratory to have a blood sample taken before your IVP. This blood test provides information about your kidney function. The body needs the kidneys to remove the contrast material used for this test.

Registering

Please report directly to the Radiology Department on the first floor of LMH. Come to this area 20 minutes before your scheduled test time.

Preparation for Adults (18 Years Old and Up)

Day before IVP:

Nothing to eat or drink after 10:00 p.m. You may take your regular medications with no more than 4 ounces of water.



**Licking Memorial
Health Systems**

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05/02/2011
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Day of IVP test:

Drink 8 ounces of water and take your regular medications. After that, nothing to eat or drink until after the test.

Preparation for Children (17 Years Old and Under)

Nothing to eat or drink 4 hours before the test.

Special Test Instructions

- During the test, relax and do what you are asked. It is very important to hold your breath when asked.
- If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, be sure to let the doctor know before the test begins.
- It is important to notify the registered nurse (RN) or radiographer if you have a history of kidney disease, or if you take an oral diabetic or blood thinning medication.

For Parents of Children

1. Be patient during the test, yet firm. You may stay in the room with the child during the test. Your child may be held still during some parts of the test.
2. Talk with your child before the test and help them understand what to expect.

During an IVP

- You will need to wear a gown and robe. The nurse or radiographer will ask a few questions and obtain a signed consent. You will be positioned on a table under a piece of X-ray equipment. The radiographer will take two X-rays to begin. There will be a short wait while the radiologist looks at the image.
- A special medication called a contrast agent will be used. This medication is injected from a syringe into a vein in the arm or hand. If the doctor has ordered any laboratory testing, we will try to get the blood samples at the same time.
- The injection may make you:
 - Feel warm and flushed
 - Have a metal taste in the mouth
 - Feel the need to urinate

These are normal. They will last only 1-2 minutes and are not cause for concern.

• Please let the radiographer know if you begin to:

- **Itch**
 - **Feel short of breath**
 - **Have problems swallowing**
 - **Are uncomfortable**
- During the test, you may be asked to lie still as the camera moves. At times, you will be asked to stay still and hold your breath so that X-rays can be taken. You may hear snapping and sliding sounds. Near the end of the test, you may be asked to empty your bladder by urinating. After you empty your bladder, another X-ray will be taken.

Other Tests

- Sometimes on male patients, the doctor may order a voiding urethrogram. For this test, an X-ray is taken after the bladder is full of contrast agent. You will be asked to urinate while the radiographer takes an X-ray at the same time. The purpose of this X-ray is to see the urethra as the contrast agent passes through it.
- The doctor also may request a voiding cystogram (VCUG) on female patients along with an IVP. If you would like to read about this test, please ask for the Care Gram entitled “Voiding Cystourethrogram.”

After the Test

You will need to wait while the radiologist looks at the X-rays. Sometimes additional X-rays may be needed to get more information.

- The contrast agent will come out in the urine. It should not discolor the urine or stool.
- After a test using contrast agents, be sure to drink lots of fluids to help the body get rid of the contrast agent. If the doctor has told you not to drink too much, please check with him/her about this.
- You may eat a regular diet after the test, unless your doctor tells you otherwise or unless there are other planned tests.

Finding Out the Results

The radiologist will study the test and give the findings to your doctor. The doctor will talk to you about the results.

Reminders

- If you have any questions about the test, please call (740) 348-4710.
- Go to the Radiology Department on the first floor of the Hospital first floor 20 minutes before the test.