

Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP)

Patient Information

Overview

An IVP is an x-ray exam of your kidneys, the tubes that drain your kidneys (ureters) and your bladder. This exam requires an intravenous injection of an iodinated contrast material.

Preparation for the exam:

You will be required to complete a bowel preparation prior to the exam. You should obtain instructions from your doctor's office for the bowel preparation. In addition to the bowel preparation, two days prior to your exam do not eat any fruit, nut, peas, coarse cereals or fried foods. On the day before your exam your diet should be only clear liquids such as clear broth, jello, apple or cranberry juice, ginger ale, cola, tea or coffee (do not use cream or milk). On the morning of your exam you may drink small amounts of clear liquids. Do not eat any solid foods. The instructions are important to follow because any fecal material in your colon may alter the results of your exam. You may also take any necessary medications the morning of your exam. If you are diabetic, please consult with your doctor before following these preparation instructions.

Appointment time:

Your appointment will be scheduled ahead of time by your doctors' office through the hospital scheduling service. If you are unsure of your appoint time, need to reschedule, or cancel your appointment, please contact your doctors' office or the hospital scheduling service at 770-538-7666 Menu Option 1. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your exam, as you will be required to register, visit our billing office and fill out other necessary forms. Since Northeast Georgia is a major medical center there are emergencies that could arise that might extend wait time. Please try to be patient and be assured that we will get to your study as quickly as possible.

Your IVP:

You will be escorted into the exam room by a radiologic technologist. You will have to change into a hospital gown, and a plain x-ray film will be taken to ensure that the preparation for the exam was followed correctly. The technologist will enter the room and take a brief history from you so that he/she will be able to perform an accurate study for you. It is important to know about any allergies that you may have, and of any previous reactions to iodinated contrast (X-ray dye) that you may have had in the past. It is also important to know of any medications you may be taking at this time. The technologist will start an IV in your arm so that he/she can inject the x-ray dye into your bloodstream. Immediately following this injection, the technologist will take a series of x-rays at timed intervals to see how your kidneys filter this dye out of your bloodstream. Subsequent follow-up films will be taken at different time intervals up to about 30 minutes. Occasionally delay films will be required for up to two hours. When all the films have been taken, you will be escorted to the bathroom so that you may empty your bladder of this dye, and a final x-ray picture will be taken for residual dye in your bladder. A typical amount of time for this exam is about one hour, however, if delay films are necessary, you may be required to stay for 2 to 3 hours.

The conclusion of your exam:

You will receive written, take-home instructions at the conclusion of your exam. You may eat and drink immediately following your exam. It is important that you drink plenty of liquids following your exam to avoid a small risk of potential damage to your kidneys due to residual "dye" in your kidneys.

Results:

The radiologist will interpret your exam and the results of your exam will be sent to your doctor.

