



MYELOGRAM

WHAT IS A MYELOGRAM?

A myelogram is an x-ray exam to evaluate the spinal canal. A spinal tap is used to introduce an x-ray dye into the spinal canal. X-ray pictures are then taken with the fluoroscope. This procedure is generally performed by a radiologist. After these pictures are completed a CT scan of that area of the spine is also performed.

WHAT IS THE PREPARATION FOR A MYELOGRAM?

After midnight on the night before the procedure you cannot have any solid food. You may have a clear liquid breakfast on the day of the exam. Clear liquids are water, apple juice, tea, chicken broth and Jell-O. You cannot have milk, coffee or orange juice. It is important to drink lots of fluids.

If you are a female of childbearing age and there is a chance you could be pregnant inform your doctor and/or technologist as soon as possible prior to your exam.

*****CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN BEFORE STOPPING ANY MEDICATIONS******

You may take all your medications, except you must stop taking aspirin, ibuprofen and Vitamin E 3 days before your procedure. Blood thinners such as coumadin should be stopped 5 days before your procedure. You should wear comfortable clothing to the hospital. Your money and other valuables should be left at home. Be sure to bring any x-rays, MRI's or CT scans with you.. Please make arrangements for someone to drive you home.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR HOSPITAL STAY:

When you arrive at the hospital, you should go to Admitting to register. You may need to have laboratory testing completed. You will then be directed to Same Day Surgery (SDS). The radiologist performing your procedure will visit you in SDS. At this time he will explain the procedure to you and any risks or complications involved. At this time be sure to ask any questions or concerns you may have. You will then be asked to sign a consent for the procedure.

ACTUAL PROCEDURE:

You will be transported to Radiology on a cart. The procedure itself takes approximately one hour. The procedure will begin with you lying on your stomach on the x-ray table. Your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution. A local anesthetic such as xylocaine will be used to numb the skin on your back. The radiologist will then place a needle into the spinal canal. Once the needle is in the proper position, an x-ray "dye" is slowly injected into the spinal canal. Once the "dye" is placed, the needle is removed. Several pictures will then be taken. You may be asked to turn from side to side for these.

