

## **WHAT IS A SIALOGRAM?**

A sialogram is an x-ray test using contrast (x-ray dye) to look in detail at the larger salivary glands (the parotid or submandibular). These glands help to keep your mouth moist by draining saliva into your mouth through small tubes called ducts. The salivary glands and the ducts can not be seen on ordinary x-rays so contrast is used to demonstrate them.

### **Why do I need this procedure?**

Your consultant has referred you for this procedure. Most people who need this procedure done have some swelling or discomfort in their face. If you are not sure why you are having this procedure please speak to your doctor.

### **Is there any preparation?**

There is no special preparation necessary. You may be asked to remove your dentures if you have any.

### **What does the examination involve?**

X-ray pictures will be taken before the test begins to look at the area where the salivary gland will be.

The radiologist (x-ray doctor) who performs your sialogram will place a small plastic tube into the tiny opening inside your mouth that leads to the duct of the salivary gland that you are having trouble with. Once this tube is in the correct position, dye will be injected through the tube into the salivary gland. Another set of x-ray pictures are taken to show the salivary duct and the salivary gland with the contrast injected into them. These can then be compared with the control pictures. When the radiologist is satisfied that they have all the information from the test they need, the plastic tube is removed.

### **How long will it take?**

The test usually takes about 30 minutes.

### **Does it hurt?**

A sialogram is painless although you may have some discomfort in your salivary gland when the contrast is injected into it.

### **Can I take my medication?**

Yes you can take your medication as normal.

### **Can I eat or drink?**

Yes, you may eat and drink normally.

### **What will happen when the test is finished?**

Once the test is finished you will be able to go home or back to work.

## **When will I get the results?**

The x-ray staff will not be able to give you the results after the test. This information will be sent to the doctor who referred you for the test and they will send either a letter to inform you of the results or a follow up appointment.

They will arrange any follow up requirements if needed.

## **Risks**

### **Minor:-**

You may notice a slight swelling to the side of the face that was being examined. This usually passes off within 24 hours. If it lasts longer than this contact your G.P. Sometimes people notice a slight ache to the face when the contrast is being injected. This usually passes off when the plastic tube is removed

### **Major:-**

1 person in 40,000 have a severe allergic reaction to contrast that will require medical attention. If this reaction occurs you will be given the appropriate treatment in the x-ray department.

## **Alternative procedure**

There is no alternative procedure offered in this Trust, you do however have the choice to not have this procedure but should discuss this carefully with your doctor.