INTRAVENOUS PYELOGRAM

What is an IVP?
An IVP (intravenous pyelogram) is a special x-ray examination of the kidneys, ureters (tubes between kidneys and bladder) and bladder.

Checking kidney stones is the most common reason for performing an IVP. Other reasons are abdominal or back pain, haematuria (blood in the urine) and/or dysuria (painful or difficult urination). An IVP is also sometimes done as part of a general assessment prior to surgery.

What special instructions do I need to follow to be ready for my IVP?
If you are unable to keep your appointment, please let us know as soon as possible. Should you be admitted to hospital, please inform your physician about your appointment.

If there is a possibility that you are pregnant, please tell your doctor as the exam may need to be postponed or cancelled or your problem investigated in another way.

If you are a diabetic and on Metformin, your doctor will require you to have some blood work done within the two weeks prior to your test. In addition, do not take your Metformin on the day of your test.

As the stomach and bowel are in front of the kidneys, your kidneys are best seen when your bowel is empty. You will need to purchase Dulcolax tablets and suppositories from a Pharmacy for use on the day before your scheduled appointment.

To empty your bowel, three (3) 5 mg Dulcolax (laxative) tablets should be taken after the evening meal on the day before the exam. One Dulcolax suppository should be used rectally one hour before bedtime. No solid food should be eaten after 9:00 p.m., but you may drink clear fluids as desired up to the time of your appointment.

Please do not use perfume or other scented products on the day of your study.

Who will be performing my examination?
This procedure will be performed by a medical radiation technologist specializing in x-ray imaging. A radiologist (a specialist medical doctor) will be present for parts of the procedure.

What will happen to me during my examination?
When you arrive in the Diagnostic Imaging department, you will need to change into a hospital gown.

While lying on your back on the x-ray table, an x-ray picture of your abdomen will be taken. This is to check whether your bowel is empty enough for the procedure.

The radiologist will give you an injection of contrast media (commonly known as “x-ray dye”) into a vein in your arm. Before the injection, s/he will ask you questions about
your medical history and allergies, particularly to contrast media.

**INTRAVENOUS PYELOGRAM (cont'd)**

The x-ray dye may give you a mild warm sensation or a metallic taste in your mouth which should quickly go away. A series of timed x-ray pictures will be taken showing the x-ray dye in your urinary system. It is important that you remain still and follow the technologist's instructions carefully.

The procedure is usually completed within one hour, however, additional x-rays may be required over several hours on occasion.

As soon as your x-ray pictures have been checked for quality, you will be free to leave the department.

**Should I expect any after effects as a result of my examination?**

The risks associated with this procedure are primarily those related to the use of contrast media.

Contrast media is gradually removed from your blood by your kidneys and stored in your bladder until you urinate. The colour of your urine will not change. You may immediately resume your normal diet. You are encouraged to drink several extra glasses of water within the next 24 hours to help your body remove the contrast media.

If you normally take Metformin, you will require blood work to be done 48 hrs after your test. We will provide you with the paperwork to bring to the lab. Your physician will notify you when to restart your Metformin based on the results this blood work. If you have not heard from your physician within 3 days, please contact their office.

Your injection site should be watched for swelling or bleeding. Notify the technologist if you notice any of the following during or immediately after your exam:

- significant swelling or bleeding occurs at the puncture site,
- you experience any hives or itching;
- you experience any difficulty in swallowing or breathing.

If any of these occur after you have left the hospital, you should contact your doctor or go to the nearest hospital.

It is also important to note that the iodine in the contrast media can affect the results of some blood and urine tests. It can also be passed on to a baby through breast-feeding. If you are breast-feeding, it is recommended that you do not breast-feed for 24 hours.

**When will I know the results?**

Your doctor will usually have a written report from the radiologist within one week of your examination. You should obtain the results from your own physician. If there is any urgency, your physician is more than welcome to contact us by telephone.

If you have any other questions or concerns that have not been answered here, please feel free to ask the Diagnostic Imaging staff involved in your examination.