



**Queensland  
Government**

**PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET ONLY**

**NO DOCUMENTED CONSENT REQUIRED**

## 1. What is a Defaecogram?

A Defaecogram is an x-ray procedure of the lower part of your bowel. Contrast (once called x-ray dye) is used to outline it and help assess the lower bowel function. The x-ray pictures are taken while you are having a bowel motion.

## 2. Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?

You may have a feeling of fullness or mild discomfort while trying to hold the Contrast in your back passage. This will disappear after you pass the Contrast.

No anaesthetic is required for this procedure.

## 3. Preparation for the procedure

The medical imaging department will give you instructions on how to prepare for your procedure.

- A bowel preparation kit. The bowel must be completely clear for the procedure to be accurate and complete.
- Please tell the staff if you are or suspect you might be pregnant.

## 4. During the procedure

A lubricated tube is inserted into your back passage. A Contrast mixture is injected through the tube into your back passage.

The tube is then removed from your back passage. You will need to hold the Contrast mixture in your back passage until asked to have a bowel movement. X-ray pictures are taken as you empty your bowel.

## 5. After the procedure

Following the procedure you will be able to visit the toilet. Your stool may appear white for a few days, this is normal.

It is important to drink plenty of fluids for a few days after the procedure to avoid constipation and dehydration.

## 6. What are the risks of this specific procedure?

There are some risks and complications with this procedure they include but are not limited to the following.

### Common risks and complications include:

- Constipation, drinking extra fluids and laxatives can help with this.
- Dehydration, drinking extra fluids can help with this.

### Less common risks and complications include:

- Infection, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.

- The procedure may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons.

### Rare risks and complications include:

- An increased lifetime cancer risk due to the exposure to x-rays.
- Perforation of the bowel. This may require antibiotics and surgery.
- Bleeding from the bowel. This may require other procedures and/or corrective surgery.
- Bacteraemia (infection in the blood). This will need antibiotics.
- Allergic reaction to the Contrast. This could result in a rash, hives, itching, nausea, fainting or shortness of breath. Medication may be given to relieve this.
- Death as a result of this procedure is very rare.

## 7. What are the safety issues when you leave the hospital?

Go to your nearest Emergency Department or GP if you become unwell or have;

- a problem with a bowel movement or passing urine
- abdomen tenderness and/or hardness
- severe ongoing abdomen pain
- bleeding from the back passage (more than ½ cup of blood)
- a fever

### Notes to talk to my doctor/ health practitioner about:

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