PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET ONLY

NO DOCUMENTED CONSENT REQUIRED
1. **What is a Dacrocystogram?**
A Dacrocystogram is an x-ray procedure to look at your tear ducts.
A small tube is inserted into your tear duct and Contrast (once known as x-ray dye) is injected. Contrast allows your tear ducts to be seen on the x-ray pictures.

2. **Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?**
Mild discomfort may be felt when the tiny tube is inserted into the tear duct. Anaesthetic eye drops may be used to numb the eye. If the eye drops are used it may sting for a few seconds, then you will not feel any discomfort.

3. **Preparation for the procedure**
The medical imaging department will give you instructions on how to prepare for your procedure.
- Please tell the staff if you are or suspect you might be pregnant.
- Contact lenses must not be worn on the day of the procedure. Please wear your normal glasses.
- Please tell staff if you have an infection in either eye or in your tear ducts. The infection could become worse if the procedure is done.

4. **During the procedure**
Plain x-ray pictures are taken of your tear ducts. If required, the anaesthetic eye drops are put in. A tiny tube is inserted into the opening of the tear duct. You will be asked to close your eyes while the tube is taped into place. Contrast is injected through the tube into your tear duct and x-ray pictures are taken. At the end of the procedure the tube is removed. Sitting upright allows the contrast to drain from your eye. You may taste some of the Contrast when it falls to the back of your throat.

5. **After the procedure**
Any tears or Contrast can be wiped away with a tissue. If anaesthetic eye drops were used, you should wear glasses or sunglasses to protect the eye. The eye drops take about 4 hours for the anaesthetic effects to wear off.

6. **What are the risks of this specific procedure?**
The risks and complications with this procedure can include but are not limited to the following.

**Common risks and complications include:**
- Failure of local anaesthetic eye drops (if used). This may require a larger dose of anaesthetic eye drops.
- Pain or discomfort with the tube insertion.

**Less common risks and complications include:**
- Unable to insert the tube into the tear duct.
- Infection, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- 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.
- The procedure may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons.

**Rare risks and complications include:**
- Perforation of tear duct. This may require surgery and/or antibiotics.
- An increased lifetime cancer risk due to the exposure to x-rays.
- 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.

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

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