

A copy of this patient information sheet should be given to the patient or substitute decision-maker or parent/legal guardian/other person* of a child or young person to read carefully and allow time to ask any questions about the procedure. The patient information sheet should be included in the patient's medical record.

In this information sheet, the word 'you' means the patient unless a substitute decision-maker, parent, legal guardian or other person is providing consent on behalf of the patient, in which case the word 'you' means the substitute decision-maker, parent, legal guardian or other person when used in the context of the person providing consent to the procedure.



1. What is a sialogram and how will it help me?

A sialogram is an x-ray procedure to look at your salivary ducts and glands and assess them for any abnormalities. A sialogram is done using fluoroscopy. Fluoroscopy is an imaging technique that uses x-rays to create moving images of the inside of your body.

A small tube is inserted into your salivary duct and contrast (also known as x-ray dye) is injected. Contrast is a colourless liquid containing iodine and it allows your salivary ducts to be seen on the x-ray images.

This procedure will help your doctor/clinician to identify any disorder of your salivary glands or their ducts.

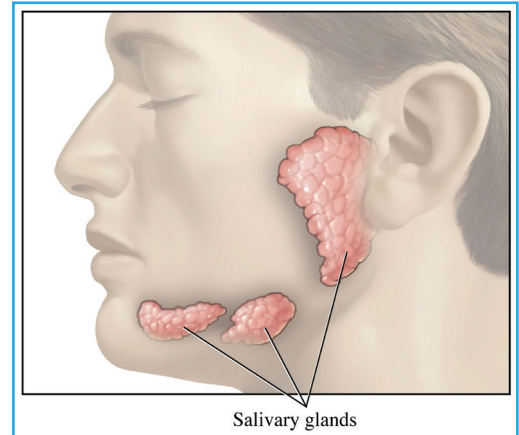


Image: Salivary glands. Illustration Copyright © 2019 Nucleus Medical Media, All rights reserved. www.nucleusmedicalmedia.com

Preparing for the procedure

The Medical Imaging department will give you instructions on how to prepare for the procedure. Please tell the doctor/clinician if you are breastfeeding or pregnant, or suspect that you may be pregnant.

For a parent/legal guardian/other person of a patient having a sialogram

To prepare the patient for this procedure and to ease their concerns, tell them what they can expect to happen during the procedure. This information sheet will assist you with this.

We welcome your help and support in preparing the patient for the procedure and in explaining why it's so important to lie still.

At the discretion of the procedure staff a parent/adult (unless pregnant) may be invited into the procedure room to support the patient.

Other children are not allowed into the procedure room, and they must be supervised at all times by another parent/adult.

During the procedure

You may be required to change into a hospital gown and to remove any metal from the area of interest.

You will be positioned on an x-ray examination table lying down and some x-ray images will be taken. It is important that you lie still while the x-rays are being taken.



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Supporting straps, foam pads and light weights may also be used to help support you.

If required, you may be given a sour tasting liquid such as lemon juice to drink or suck on. This will open your salivary ducts.

With your mouth open, the salivary duct is located and a thin, plastic tube called a catheter is inserted. You may feel a slight discomfort as the catheter is inserted.

Contrast is then injected through the tube into your salivary duct and glands whilst a series of x-ray images are taken.

Throughout the procedure you may also be asked to change the position of your head so x-ray images from different angles can be taken.

At the end of the procedure, the tube is removed, and you will be allowed to sit up. This allows the contrast to drain from your salivary duct into your mouth. As it does this, you may 'taste' the contrast. You can swallow or spit this out.



2. What are the risks?

In recommending the procedure, the doctor/clinician believes that the benefits to you from having the procedure exceed the risks involved. There are risks and possible complications associated with the procedure which can occur with all patients – these are set out below. There may also be additional risks and possible complications specific to your condition and circumstances which the doctor/clinician will discuss with you. If you have any further concerns, please ensure that you raise them with the doctor/clinician.

Common risks and complications

- minor pain, bruising or discomfort from the tube insertion. This may require treatment.

Uncommon risks and complications

- unable to insert the tube into the salivary 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

- perforation of the salivary duct. This may require antibiotics and/or surgery
- death because of this procedure is very rare.

Risks of radiation

The risks of radiation exposure from this procedure need to be compared to the risks of your condition not being treated. Exposure to radiation may cause a slight increase in the risk of cancer to you over your lifetime. However, the potential risk is small compared to the expected benefit of this procedure¹.

What are the risks of not having a sialogram?

There may be adverse consequences for your health if you choose not to have the proposed procedure. Please discuss these with the referring doctor/clinician.



3. Are there alternatives?

Making the decision to have a procedure requires you to understand the options available. Please discuss any alternative procedure options with your doctor/clinician.



4. What should I expect after the procedure?

You may return to your normal diet and activities after a sialogram unless the clinician tells you otherwise.

You will receive the results of the procedure from your treating team.



5. Who will be performing the procedure?

Radiographers, doctors, nuclear medicine technologists, sonographers, nurses, and medical imaging assistants make up the medical imaging team. All or some of these professionals may be involved in your procedure.

A doctor/clinician other than the consultant/specialist may assist with/conduct the clinically appropriate procedure. This could include a doctor/clinician undergoing further training, however all trainees are supervised according to relevant professional guidelines.

If you have any concerns about which doctor/clinician will be performing the procedure, please discuss this with the doctor/clinician.

For the purpose of undertaking professional training in this teaching hospital, a clinical student(s) may observe medical examination(s) or procedure(s) and may also, subject to your consent, assist with/conduct an examination or procedure on a patient.

You are under no obligation to consent to an examination(s) or a procedure(s) being undertaken by a clinical student(s) for training purposes. If you choose not to consent, it will not adversely affect your access, outcome or rights to medical treatment in any way.

For more information on student care, please visit www.health.qld.gov.au/consent/students.



6. Where can I find support or more information?

Hospital care: before, during and after is available on the Queensland Health website www.qld.gov.au/health/services/hospital-care/before-after where you can read about your healthcare rights.

Further information about informed consent can be found on the Informed Consent website www.health.qld.gov.au/consent. Additional statewide consent forms and patient information sheets are also available here.

Staff are available to support patients' cultural and spiritual needs. If you would like cultural or spiritual support, please discuss this with your doctor/clinician.

Queensland Health recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients will experience the best clinical care when their culture is included during shared decision-making.



7. Questions

Please ask the doctor/clinician if you do not understand any aspect of this patient information sheet or if you have any questions about your proposed procedure.

If you have further questions prior to your appointment, please contact the Medical Imaging department via the main switchboard of the facility where your procedure is booked.



8. Contact us

In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000).

If it is not an emergency, but you have concerns, contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

References:

1. Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). Ionising radiation in our everyday environment, 2021. Available from www.arpansa.gov.au

* Formal arrangements, such as parenting/custody orders, adoption, or other formally recognised carer/guardianship arrangements. Refer to the Queensland Health 'Guide to Informed Decision-making in Health Care' and local policy and procedures.