

What you need to know about Intravenous Pyelogram...

What is a Intravenous Pyelogram?

An Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP) is a special X-ray exam of your urinary system. The urinary system includes the kidneys, ureters, and the bladder.

How does IVP work?

During the procedure, the technologist will inject contrast material (X-ray dye) into your blood stream and then take a series of X-rays. The X-ray dye will make the kidneys and urinary system visible on X-ray film.

May I take someone with me?

Certainly. Your friend or family member is welcome to stay in the waiting room.

How should I prepare for my exam?

The day before:

It is important that you follow the preparation for this exam carefully. The evening before the exam, you will be given a strong laxative. Your bowel needs to be as clean as possible to obtain a clear and accurate picture of your kidneys.

You should continue to take prescription medicines on schedule — unless your physician has instructed you differently.

What about my clothing?

You will be asked to undress, put on a hospital gown, and remove any jewelry or any other objects that might interfere with the X-ray.

What will happen during the procedure?

Prior to the beginning of the procedure, an IV line will be started in your arm. A technologist will first take preliminary X-rays to identify the location of your kidneys and see if your bowel is empty enough for the test. If there is too much gas or bowel contents over the kidneys, your test may have to be re-scheduled.

The initial X-rays and your health history will be reviewed with a radiologist. The technologist will then inject the contrast material and start the filming. For each X-ray, you will be asked to hold your breath for a brief period of time. The technologist will ask you to go to the bathroom and urinate when it becomes apparent that the X-ray dye has reached your bladder. Then another X-ray of your empty bladder may also be taken.

Does it hurt?

No. However, some people experience a mild feeling of warmth or coolness with the injection of the X-ray dye. If you experience any problems during the exam, please tell the technologist immediately.

Is the procedure safe?

Yes. However, because the examination includes the use of a catheter in your vein and the injection of contrast material, there is some risk. A few patients become nauseated from the injections. Patients with diabetes, kidney disease, asthma, or previous allergic reactions to contrast material (X-ray dye) should inform their physician prior to the exam. Some patients may be medicated prior to their IVP based on their health history.

When will I learn the results?

The radiologist will evaluate your case and report to your physician. Normally, within 3 working days, your physician will inform you of the results.

Whom should I call if I have any other questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Northfield Hospital's Medical Imaging Department at (507) 646-1143.