



MYELOGRAMS AND CT MYELOGRAMS

Pre-procedure patient information, screening questions and instructions for patients undergoing myelograms and CT myelograms involving intrathecal contrast injection.

General description of the procedure

This procedure involves imaging the spine with x-rays and CT scanning after injection of some contrast material into the spinal canal. Imaging guidance is used for the contrast injection and it is not painful. The contrast is naturally excreted by your body over the next few hours. The procedure takes less than an hour, but you should plan to be with us for at least 3 hours and possibly more because of the post-procedure observation period needed. You should drink clear liquids only during the four hours prior to the procedure. You should arrange for someone else to drive you home, and should have somebody stay with you overnight afterwards. The procedure is not painful, but does involve minor risks of headache and seizure and you will have the opportunity to discuss these with the radiologist prior to the exam.

Screening questions for the patient:

1. Are you allergic to x-ray contrast agents (x-ray dye)? Yes No
If "YES" consult the radiologist.
2. Are you taking any of medications that lower the seizure threshold? Yes No
If "YES", which ones?
 - Phenothiazine derivatives (e.g. compazine, stelazine, Thorazine)
 - Tricyclic antidepressants (e.g. Elavil, sinequan)
 - Monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors (e.g. Nardil, Parnate)
 - CNS stimulants/analeptics such as methamphetamine (e.g. Desoxyn) and amphetamines (e.g. Dexedrine)
 - Antipsychotic agentsThe patient will have to stop these medicines a week or so prior to the procedure. Please consult with the radiologist.
3. Are you taking any of these anticoagulants or blood thinning meds? Yes No
If "YES", which ones?
 - Coumadin (warfarin). This will need to be stopped five days prior to the procedure. Please coordinate with your prescribing physician.
 - Lovenox. Stop the day of the procedure only.
 - Plavix. Stop for 7 days prior.
 - Aspirin is OK
4. Have you had any recent brain surgery or a stroke? If so consult with radiologist.
5. Do you weigh over 300lbs? If so consult with radiologist.