

Fluoroscopy-Myelogram

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about Procedure: (319) 398-6050

What is a Myelogram Procedure?

A myelogram is an x-ray study of the fluid-filled canal surrounding your spinal cord. Through a spinal tap (also called a lumbar puncture) in the lower back or in the neck, a water-soluble contrast medium (iodine) is injected into the space around the spinal cord. A myelogram is used to diagnose disc problems, spinal tumors or spinal abscesses. The procedure takes about 1 hour. You will be required to arrive 1 ½ hours prior to the time of the exam and allow approximately 2 hours recovery time following the procedure.

Preparation:

1. Your doctor will give you specific instructions regarding preparation for the procedure and admittance to the hospital.
2. Depending on the routine orders for the exam, an IV (intravenous line) will be started by the nurse before the myelogram procedure to deliver extra fluids to your body.
3. Please inform your doctor before the exam if:
 - You are pregnant
 - You have ever had a reaction to x-ray contrast media or any other substance containing iodine
 - You have any allergies
 - You are taking any medications, prescription or over the counter, especially anti-depressants or blood thinners
4. No solid foods after midnight; clear liquids up to 2 hours before the exam time.
5. If you are diabetic and taking medication please contact your diabetes doctor regarding diabetic medications.
6. You must have a driver and someone to stay with you 24 hours post procedure.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:

A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY

A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING

Procedure:

1. The radiologist will explain the procedure thoroughly and have you sign a consent form for the exam.
2. The radiologist will perform a spinal tap and inject the contrast medium.
3. A sequence of images will be taken. The table you will be lying on is tilted to obtain all the views necessary for an accurate diagnosis.
4. After the myelogram is completed, you will be instructed to keep your head elevated and remain flat on your back.
5. A CT scan of your spine will follow your myelogram.

What is a CT Scan?

CT scanning –sometimes called CAT scanning—is a non-invasive, painless medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions.

CT imaging uses special x-ray equipment to produce multiple images or pictures of the inside of the body and a computer to join them together in cross-sectional views of the area being studied. The images can then be examined on a computer monitor or printed.

CT scans of internal organs, bone, soft tissues and blood vessels provide greater clarity than conventional x-ray exams.

There are no special routines after the CT scan. You will be able to eat after the scan unless your doctor has indicated otherwise. The results of the scan will be sent to your doctor.

Follow-Up:

1. Upon returning to the Cardiovascular Recovery Bay, you will be helped back to bed and instructed by your nurse about the proper position and activity you may resume.
2. You should drink extra fluids for at least 24 hours following the procedure.

Parking/Registration:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 8th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 8th Street and 8th Ave. SE. You will be pre-registered, so you can proceed to the **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to the Katz Cardiovascular Center also located on the **Ground (G)** level.

Procedure Results:

Please allow 2 business days from your exam for your physician to review your Radiology results.

Your appointment date and time:

Procedure date: _____

Procedure time: _____