

T-Tube Cholangiogram

An information guide



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What is a T-tube cholangiogram?

A T-tube cholangiogram is a special x-ray investigation that is carried out using x-ray dye to visualise the bile ducts after you have had your gallbladder removed. The bile ducts drain bile from the liver into the duodenum (first part of the small bowel). This investigation will help show any stones remaining in the bile ducts.

Who performs your investigation?

A radiologist will carry out this investigation assisted by a radiographer. Radiologists are specially trained to interpret the images and carry out more complex examinations. They are supported by radiographers who are highly trained to carry out x-rays and other imaging procedures.

What does the test involve?

You will need to change into a hospital gown. In an x-ray examination room you will be asked to lie down on the table, dye will be injected through your T-tube and x-ray images taken. At the end of the procedure, the drainage bag will be replaced on your tube.

Is there any special preparation for this investigation?

There isn't any special preparation required before the investigation but it would be useful if you could bring a spare bag to replace the one that will be removed to be able to do the investigation.

How long does it take and is it a painful procedure?

It will take about 30mins to do the examination. It is not a painful procedure.

Are there any side effects/after effects?

There are no side effects or after effects from this procedure.

How do you get the results of your investigation?

The results of your examination will be sent to the consultant who referred you.

Important - Could you be diabetic?

If you did not make us aware that you are diabetic when we arranged your appointment, please contact radiology appointments on 0161 778 2233.

Important - Could you be pregnant?

This examination does involve using a small amount of radiation. This dose is kept to a minimum to reduce the risks to yourself.

This appointment for x-ray **must fall within the first 28 days of your menstrual cycle, counting the day you start your period as day 1.** If this appointment does not fall within these 28 days, or if you are at all uncertain, please contact radiology appointments 0161 778 2233. **It is important that this rule is adhered to.**

If you have any questions regarding your investigation you can contact us on 0161 778 2233.

If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

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Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

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☎ : 0161 627 8770

@ : interpretation@pat.nhs.uk

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For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897


For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service

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