

Fluoroscopy

What is a fluoroscopy examination?

A fluoroscopy unit uses x-rays and an Image Intensifier to produce 'real time' 2D images, similar to a movie. Often, a contrast agent (barium or iodine based) is used to make different body parts more visible.

Fluoroscopy can be used to examine the digestive tract, the kidneys and bladder, joints and to perform minor operative procedures such as intravenous line insertions.

What fluoroscopy procedures can I have done at the LGH?

At the LGH we offer a wide range of diagnostic and interventional fluoroscopic procedures, including:

- Digestive System Studies using either Barium or Iodinated oral contrast
 - Swallowing
 - Stomach (Meal)
 - Small bowel follow through
 - Ileostomy studies
 - Enema.
- Renal Studies
 - Micturating cysto-urethrogram
 - Retrograde pyelogram
 - Urethrogram
 - Intravenous pyelogram.
- Lumbar puncture
 - T-tube Cholangiogram
 - PICC line insertion
 - Joint Injection
 - Hysterosalpingogram.

How do I prepare for my Fluoroscopy examination?

- If you have been referred for a fluoroscopic examination by your doctor and would like to make a booking, please contact the bookings on 03 6348 7085.
- Most fluoroscopy procedures will require some preparation such as fasting or bowel preparation. You will be advised how to prepare when your appointment is made.
- Please inform the Booking Staff if you weigh more than 150 kgs.

Just prior to the examination

- Please inform your doctor if you are allergic to Contrast or Iodine.
- You will need to wear a hospital gown.

During the fluoroscopy examination

- A radiologist and a radiographer will perform this examination. Sometimes a nurse will also assist you.
- Fluoroscopy examinations can take from 10 minutes to several hours, depending on the complexity of each case. Your radiographer will advise you on the day.
- Often, fluoroscopy examinations involve the administration of a contrast agent (barium or iodine based). The radiographer and radiologist will inform you of your requirements on the day.
- The radiologist will direct you during the examination. You may be asked to lie or stand in different positions to aid the imaging process.

What do I do after the examination is finished?

- Eat and drink normally after the examination, unless otherwise directed.
- In some cases you will be given an information sheet at discharge about your procedure.
- Return to your doctor to discuss the examination results.
- The radiologist's report automatically forwarded to your doctor. If you are referred from outside the hospital you will be given a CD of your images.

Further Information

The following web link provides additional information for patients:

Inside Radiology: www.insideradiology.com.au

This has been written specifically to help you understand more about any radiological tests and procedures that you or a family member may require. It has information about the roles and training of different health professionals you may encounter at a radiology practice or in a hospital radiology department such as at LGH.

It has been written by health professionals and is part of the Consumer Information Project of the QUDI Program (Quality use of Diagnostic Imaging) of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

To find out more about the QUDI program, click here:

http://www.insideradiology.com.au/pages/qudi_about.php

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