

Sialogram



Radiology Department

You have been referred by your doctor for a Sialogram; this is a study of the salivary glands. You have three different glands but we will be examining either the Parotid or Submandibular glands. As salivary glands cannot be seen on a normal x-ray, an x-ray dye is used to demonstrate them.

This leaflet provides you with information about having a sialogram. It explains what is involved and who you will meet.

What preparation is required?

No preparation is required before a sialogram; you can eat and drink as normal. It would be helpful if you removed any jewellery from the neck and above before you attend. Please **do not attend** should you have an infection within the gland, reschedule the appointment following appropriate treatment.

Women of childbearing age

This examination is not advisable for pregnant women. Please advise the x-ray department in advance if you think you are, or might be pregnant.

Please note that our x-ray table has a patient weight limit of 23 stones or 146kg. If you know that you weigh more than this it is important that you telephone the department on **01483 464150**.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes but for safety reasons, you will need to come into the x-ray room on your own.

The Radiology Department

Radiology is also known as the X-Ray or Imaging Department.

Who will I meet?

- **Receptionist/Clerical Staff:** can help you make or change your imaging appointments and ensure your details are correct when you arrive for your appointment.

- **Radiographers:** a health care professional who will assist the radiologist.
- **Radiologist:** a specialist doctor trained to inject x-ray dye and to take images during the examination. They will also interpret the images and report them for your consultant.

What happens when I arrive?

Please register at the reception desk, where you will be directed to the waiting area.

What will happen during the examination?

Your verbal consent will be gained prior to commencing the examination.

You will be asked to lie on the x-ray table, on your back and the doctor will need to shine a bright light into your open mouth to enable him or her to find the entrance to the salivary gland. A fine tube will then be passed 1 to 2 millimetres into the opening of the gland. For the submandibular gland the opening is under your tongue, for the parotid gland the opening is on the inside of your cheek.

The doctor will inject the dye through this tube whilst taking x-rays and you will be asked to keep as still as possible. Occasionally we will then take a second view from a different angle. The whole examination should take between 15 to 20 minutes.

Will the examination be painful and are there any side effects?

The examination is not painful and it is very rare for there to be an allergic reaction to the iodine dye. As with all x-ray examinations, we endeavour to keep the exposure to radiation to the absolute minimum.

Is there an alternative examination?

Although there are alternative methods of imaging the salivary glands, this is the only method to check for a blockage in the duct.

Aftercare advice

The dye can leave an unpleasant metallic taste in the mouth, but this can be alleviated with a sweet or rinse of water.

The examination can sometimes make the gland swell but this can generally be alleviated by gentle massage.

When will I get the results?

The x-rays we take will be read after your visit and the results sent to your referring doctor, which is normally within 14 days. If you already have a clinic appointment you will receive the results then, otherwise you will receive a letter with a date for a clinic appointment.

Privacy and dignity

We will try to make your visit to our department as comfortable as we can.

Patient survey

We value your opinion on our service and in order to deliver, maintain and improve this service we ask you to complete a short patient questionnaire found on the appointment letter. Completion of this survey is entirely voluntary.

Reference source

- Chapman and Nakielnys guide to radiological procedures

Contact

If you have any questions or would like to know more about this examination, please contact the Radiology Department on:

01483 571122 ext: 2050 or 01483 464150

Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please contact us as soon as possible.

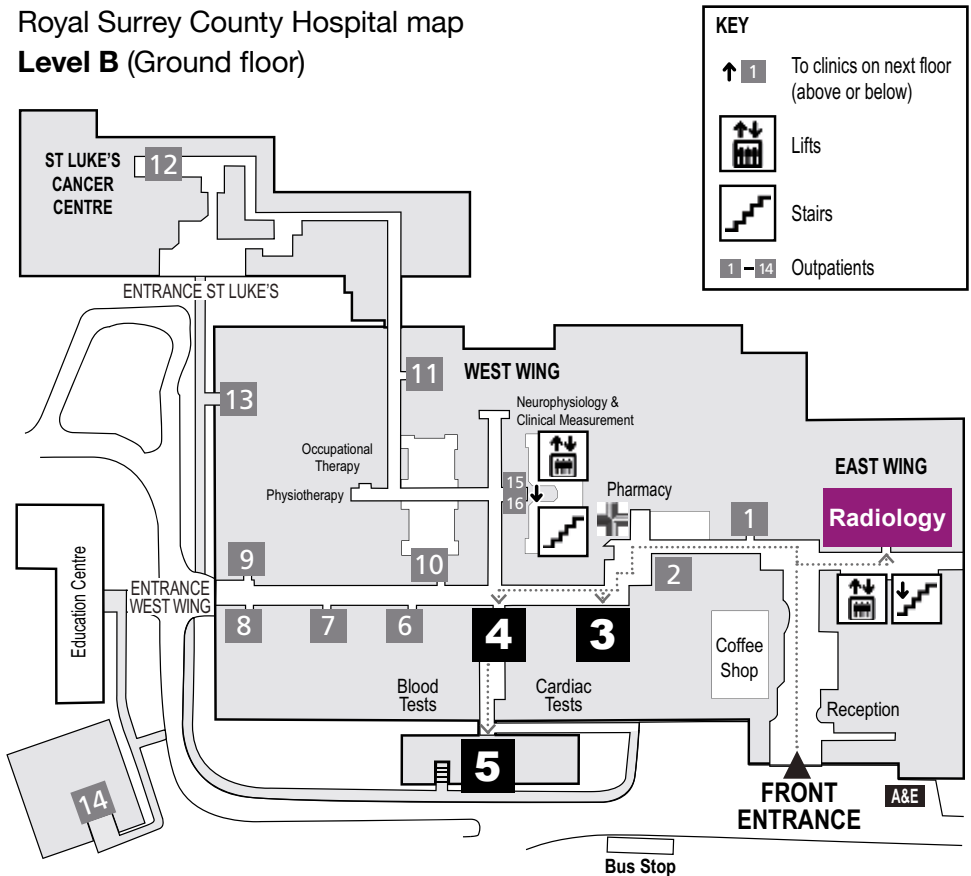
Useful websites

- **The Royal College of Radiologists**
www.rcr.ac.uk/
- **Nice Guidelines**
www.nice.org.uk
- **Information on radiation**
www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons
- **NHS Choices**
www.nhs.uk/conditions/salivary-gland-stones/Pages/Introduction.aspx

How to find the Radiology department

Royal Surrey County Hospital map

Level B (Ground floor)



Data sharing reference information is available on Royal Surrey County Hospital patient information leaflet entitled:

Your Healthcare records - your information **PIN120703-562**

Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Egerton Road

Guildford

Surrey

GU2 7XX

www.roysurrey.nhs.uk

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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