

Dacrocystogram



Radiology Department

This leaflet provides you with information about having a Dacrocystogram. It explains what is involved and who you will meet. A Dacrocystogram is an x-ray examination to visualise the tear ducts. As tear ducts cannot be seen on a normal x-ray, an x-ray dye is used to demonstrate them.

What preparation is required?

No preparation is required before a dacrocystogram; you can eat and drink as normal. Please **do not** wear contact lenses. Please **do not attend** should you have an eye infection.

You can reschedule the appointment following the appropriate treatment.

Women of child bearing 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.
- **Radiographer:** 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 happens during the examination?

The radiologist will begin by asking you about any relevant medical history including any allergies you suffer from. You will need to lie flat on the x-ray table whilst the doctor looks for the entrance of your tear ducts. A tiny tube will be placed 1 to 2 mm into the ducts. As we take the x-ray images, dye will be introduced through these small tubes into the duct. It is very important at this stage that you stay as still as possible while the images are being taken. You may feel the dye running down the back of your throat, this is normal.

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. The dye can leave an unpleasant metallic taste in the mouth, but this can be alleviated with a sweet or rinse of water. As with all x-ray examinations, we endeavour to keep the exposure to radiation to the absolute minimum.

Is there an alternative examination?

There is no other alternative examination within this trust. This is the most appropriate examination to assess a blockage of the lacrimal (tear) ducts.

Aftercare advice

There is no aftercare needed for a dacrocystogram. The contrast will not affect your vision; therefore you can drive straight after the examination.

When will I get the results?

The x-rays we take will be reported on 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 about the service we provide. Please help us to improve the service by answering the voluntary questionnaire at the end of your appointment letter.

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

Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

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

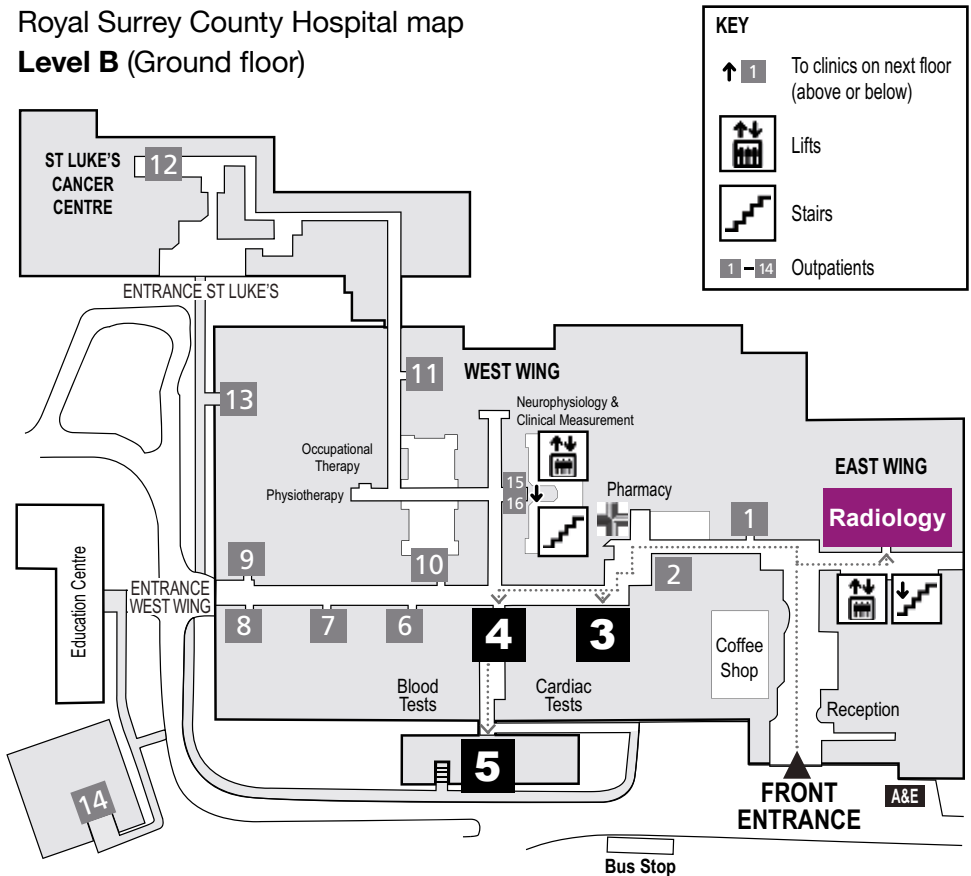
Useful websites

- **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**
<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/watering-eye/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.royalsurrey.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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