



Procedure Information

Myelogram

Introduction

Myelogram is a radiological examination of the outlining spinal cord, nerve roots and spinal lining (meninges) with the injection of contrast medium. The procedure is performed by radiologist under fluoroscopy.

Indications

Your doctor may recommend a Myelogram if you encounter any abnormal symptoms or have concerns, including:

- Assess the spine after spinal surgery
- Assess the disc abnormalities who cannot undergo MRI examination
- Treatment planning

Procedures

1. The radiologist will sterilize and apply local anesthetic on the skin of site of injection.
2. The radiologist will insert a fine needle catheter into the lumbar region under fluoroscopy. Contrast medium will be introduced into the intrathecal space.
3. After the injection of contrast medium, you will be put into various positions to facilitate the flow of contrast.
4. A series of radiographs will be taken.

Possible Risks and Complications

1. Uncommon complications:
 - Headache
 - Flushing or nausea
2. Rare but serious complications:
 - Nerve injury or bleeding around the nerve root in spinal canal
 - Meninges inflammation or infection
 - Seizures
 - Allergy to contrast medium

** The risks listed above are in general terms and the possibility of complications is not exhaustive. Please understand that even though all procedures are carried out with utmost professionalism and care, this does not rule out the possibility of complications arising and may require another operation to deal with the complications.

Pre-procedure Preparations

1. The procedure and possible complications will be explained by the doctor and a consent form must be signed prior to the procedure.
2. Please inform the doctor and nurse all your past medical history, previous surgical operations, current medication and any complication with drug or anaesthesia. Your blood clotting profile (PT, APTT, INR, Platelet) is needed.
3. Female who are or might be pregnant must inform to the staff.
4. Withhold Plavix for 5 days before procedure; withhold Low Molecular Weight Heparin one dose before procedure.
5. Please bring all relevant imaging films and reports for comparison.
6. No food or drink six hours before procedure.
7. Please change into a surgical gown after removing clothing including dentures and jewellery.

Post-procedure Instructions

1. You should rest in recovery area where vital sign and general condition are observed.
2. Please drink plenty of water to increase the rate of excretion of contrast medium from the body.
3. You should refrain from heavy loading physical activities or bending over for coming few days.
4. Please follow the doctor's instructions.

Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult our department (MEI).

Under the professional care of the doctor, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the doctor to further follow-up.

Compiled by Union Hospital Operating Theatre (OT) Governance Committee

The above information is for reference only, please enquire your physician for details
Our Hospital reserves the RIGHT to amend any information in this leaflet without prior notification