



Retrograde Urethrogram

How to prepare for your procedure

A retrograde urethrogram is an examination used to check for problems of the urethra, a portion of the lower urinary tract. Read this handout to learn how the examination is done, how to prepare for it, what to expect, and how to get your results.

What is a retrograde urethrogram?

A retrograde urethrogram is an X-ray examination of the urethra. A catheter is put in place into the urethra, and it is filled with a water-based contrast material.

How does the examination work?

Small amounts of X-rays are passed through the body. When a special film plate is exposed to the X-rays that pass through your body, a picture of the inside of your body is captured. Contrast material is used to help produce more detailed pictures.

How should I prepare for the examination?

You will be asked to remove your underwear and put on hospital pants and a gown. Empty your bladder just before the examination. No other special preparation is needed.

How is the examination done?

1. You lie on an exam table. The radiology technologist may help you get in the right position.
2. X-ray pictures are taken before the contrast material is placed.
3. You will be cleaned with special soap. Then, a small, sterile tube will be placed into your urethra.
4. Contrast material will be injected and images will be recorded.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC Radiology staff are also available to help at any time.

Imaging Services:
206-598-6200

What will I feel during the examination?

Before the catheter is inserted, your genital area will be washed and prepared with sterile supplies, which may feel cold due to the antiseptic. Placing the catheter and filling the urethra may cause mild discomfort. Be sure to tell your radiologist if you have discomfort.

Who interprets the results and how do I get them?

A radiologist trained to interpret the retrograde urethrogram will review the images and send a report to your doctor, who will give you your test results. Based on the findings, you and your doctor will decide the next step, such as treatment for a problem, as needed.

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