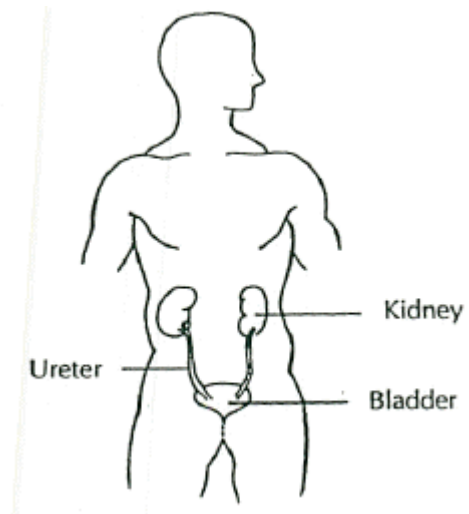


# Your Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP)

## What is an Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP) and What does it show?

An Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP) is an x-ray of your kidneys, ureters (tubes that drain urine from the kidneys to the bladder) and your bladder. These parts of your body cannot be seen well on regular x-ray without the use of an x-ray dye (contrast material). The dye is injected into the bloodstream through a vein and goes to the kidneys so they can be seen with x-rays.



## Why am I having an IVP?

Your doctor has scheduled you for an IVP because you have symptoms that he/she feels may be related to your kidneys, ureters or bladder. This might be back or pelvic pain, trouble passing urine, blood in the urine, frequent infections of the

urinary tract, or kidney stones. This x-ray gives your doctor information that may help in your diagnosis and treatment. Please let someone know if you may be pregnant; x-ray may harm an unborn child

## How do I get ready for my IVP?

The kidneys are located behind the bowels (intestines). The bowels need to be empty so the kidneys, ureters and bladder can be seen well on x-ray. It is important that the following instructions are started the day before your x-ray.

- If you are not a patient in the hospital, you will need to buy: Magnesium Citrate<sup>®</sup> (10 ounces) Dulcolax<sup>®</sup> (4 tablets).  
These are laxatives that you can buy in the drugstore without a prescription.
- Do not eat food. Drink only clear liquids for breakfast, lunch and supper. (Clear liquids are broth or bouillon, juices without pulp, soft drinks, Jell-O<sup>®</sup>, black coffee or tea.)
- Drink 8 ounces of water or other clear liquids every hour from noon until midnight.
- After lunch (around 12 noon) drink the entire bottle of Magnesium Citrate<sup>®</sup>. It will taste better if it is cold.
- At 4:00p.m. take the four Dulcolax<sup>®</sup> tablets with a glass of water.
- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight until the x-ray is completed. You may take )four medicines.

You may want to bring something to read or handwork to do while you wait.

## **What will happen in the x-ray room?**

You will be asked to put on a hospital gown.

The x-ray staff and doctor will explain more about your IVP. You will be asked to sign a form that explains the exam and gives us permission to do the IVP. You will be asked about allergies or medicines that have caused a problem for you in the past.

You will be helped onto a special x-ray table. Dye will be injected into the bloodstream through a vein in your arm. If you are already in the hospital and have an IV that is working well, the dye can be injected through your IV.

The dye may make you feel warm. You may notice a metal taste in your mouth. This is normal and only lasts a few minutes.

A sponge pressure pad will be placed on your abdomen. This helps the x-ray dye go to your kidneys.

A series of x-ray pictures will be taken. Each time, you will be asked to hold your breath and remain as still as possible.

## **What do I do after my IVP?**

The x-ray dye is clear. It will pass through your urine but will not change the color of the urine. Ask your doctor if you should drink extra fluids after the exam.

## **How long does the exam take?**

Your x-ray visit for an IVP will take about one and one-half hours. This includes waiting time. You may have to wait a few minutes during your x-ray while the films are being checked. It is important that the films have all the needed information.

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The information on this Website is provided for general informational purposes only and **SHOULD NOT** be relied upon as a substitute for sound professional medical advice, evaluation or care from your physician or other qualified healthcare provider. If you have a medical problem or a health-related question, consult your physician or call Health On-Call at 336-716-2255 or 1-800-446-2255.

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Medical Center Boulevard  
Winston-Salem, NC 27157  
(336) 716-5053