

Your Nephrostogram

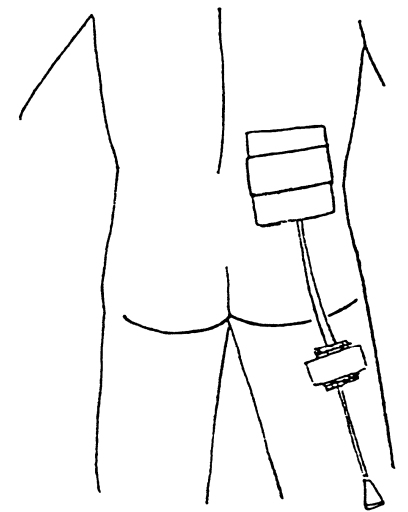
A Patient Education Series from
the Department of Radiology

Thank you for choosing Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns or do not understand the information we give you. Always ask us to explain words or phrases you do not understand.

This sheet will review what you can expect before, during and after your nephrostogram.

What is a nephrostogram?

A nephrostogram (neh FROST o gram) is an x-ray of the kidney collecting system and ureter. Doctors inject x-ray contrast (dye) through the nephrostomy tube so the collecting system and ureter show up on x-ray pictures. This exam also shows how your kidney drains urine through your ureter to your bladder.



Why am I having a nephrostogram?

Your doctor has scheduled you for this x-ray to check the placement of your tube and to see how well your kidney is draining. This may be done because you are having problems with your kidney or your tube. Symptoms may include pain, leaking at the tube site, or decreased urine output in your drainage bag. This exam may be done as a follow-up to see if your kidney is draining properly so the nephrostomy tube can be removed. Ask your doctor to explain more about why you are having this exam.

How do I get ready for my nephrostogram?

You do not need to do anything special before this exam. You may want to bring a sweater in case the waiting room is cool and something to read or handwork to do while you wait.

What will happen in the x-ray room?

We will ask you to put on a hospital gown and help you onto the x-ray table. The x-ray staff and doctor will explain more about your exam and answer your questions. We will ask you to sign a consent form and ask about allergies you have to medicines or x-ray dyes.



The staff will help you get into the most comfortable position that will show your back and your nephrostomy tube. We may remove the bandage covering your tube. The x-ray staff will clean your back and tube with iodine and place sterile towels around the tube on your back. It is important that you don't touch these towels.

The x-ray staff will disconnect the tube from the drainage bag and connect a syringe with x-ray contrast to the tube. The doctor will slowly inject the contrast and watch the x-ray monitor (a special TV-like screen) as your kidney fills. You may feel some pressure in your back or side as the x-ray contrast goes in.

We may ask you to move in different positions. As each x-ray is taken we will ask you to hold your breath and remain as still as you can.

What do I do after my nephrostogram?

After all the pictures are checked, we will connect the nephrostomy tube to the drainage bag. Someone in x-ray will finish cleaning around your tube and cover it with a new bandage.

If the doctor decides to remove your tube, someone will put a drainage bag (pouch) over the opening where your tube was. The pouch sticks to your skin and keeps you dry until the wound heals. A nurse will give you more instructions on how to care for your pouch and wound.

How long does the exam take?

Your visit will take about one hour. Please know that you may have to wait a few minutes during your exam while the films are being checked. It is important that the films have all the needed information.

We care about your care!

We understand that you may be anxious about your x-ray study. Please feel free to ask questions at any time.

Department of Radiology
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone: (336) 716-3560

*This information is general. If your doctor tells you something different,
follow his or her advice and instructions.*

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