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You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

If you are unhappy with the advice you have been given by your GP, consultant, or another healthcare professional, you may ask for a second (or further) opinion.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: [patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk) if you would like a reference list.

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## **Sialogram** (page 1 of 2)

The leaflet tells you about having a sialogram. It explains what is involved and the possible risks. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for such discussions. If you have any questions about the procedure please ask the doctor who has referred you for the test or the Radiology Department.

### **What is a sialogram?**

A sialogram is an investigation of a salivary gland and its ducts, using X-rays and contrast medium (a dye). It is carried out to look in detail at the larger salivary glands, called the parotid and submandibular glands. These glands drain saliva into your mouth through small tubes (known as ducts). The parotid duct opens on the inside of the cheek next to the upper back teeth. The submandibular duct opens on the inside of the mouth under the tongue immediately behind the lower front teeth.

### **What does a sialogram involve?**

The radiologist is the doctor who performs your sialogram. A small plastic tube will be passed into the duct of the salivary gland. Once this tube is in the correct position, contrast medium (a dye) will be injected through it into the salivary gland ducts, and we will then take X-ray images of the glands.

Please note: If your doctor has requested a submandibular gland examination you will also need a dental X-ray (this will be arranged within the X-ray department on the day).

The examination is not painful but can be a bit uncomfortable.

### **How long will it take?**

It usually takes about 20 minutes to perform the investigation.

### **Is there any special preparation?**

No. You may eat and drink and take any medication before the examination.

### **Should I be worried about radiation risks?**

No. With modern equipment the radiation dose is minimal. The equipment is constantly monitored and there are strict working practices by which we are legally bound to follow.

## **Clinical Radiology**

 **01722 336262 ext 4196**

## How will I get the results?

After the procedure the images will be examined by the radiologist and a report issued to the doctor who referred you for the test (usually GP or hospital consultant). You should make a follow-up appointment with your GP or hospital consultant.