



What is T-Tube cholangiogram? What does it involve?

A T-tube cholangiogram is a special X-ray procedure that is done with X-ray dye to visualize the bile ducts after the gallbladder has been removed. The bile ducts drain bile from the liver into the duodenum (first part of the small bowel). This procedure will visualize any stones remaining in the bile ducts.

You will need to change into a hospital gown. In an X-ray examination room you will be asked to lie down on the table, dye will be injected through the T tube, which your surgeon placed during your operation and X-ray images taken. At the end of the procedure, the drainage bag will be replaced on your tube.

Are there any side effects or risks?

There is an extremely small risk of allergic reaction to the X-ray dye.

Radiation Dose

This investigation involves exposure to x-rays. X-rays consist of a type of radiation known as ionising radiation. The doses that are used in medical X-rays are very low and the associated risks are minimal. The radiation dose is about the same as the average person receives from background radiation over 5-6 weeks. Special precautions are taken to keep the radiation dose to a minimum.

What if I am pregnant?

This examination should not be used for women who are pregnant, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please advise the department if you think you are or might be pregnant.

Is there any special preparation?

There is no specific preparation for this examination.

How long does it take, is it a painful procedure?

It will take about 15 minutes to do the examination. It is not a painful procedure.

How will I get the results?

The results of your examination will be sent to the consultant who referred you.

Clinical Radiology
01722 336262 ext 4196

If you need this information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: customer-care@salisbury.nhs.uk.

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 if you would like a reference list.

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