



Information for  
patients and  
carers

## Contrast via Stoma

### Gastro-Intestinal (GI) Loopogram

## What is a loopogram?

A gastro-intestinal (GI) loopogram is an X-ray examination to assess the structure of the bowel which is forming your stoma (the opening on the surface of your abdomen). As part of the examination a contrast agent (an X-ray dye) is introduced through a small tube which will be inserted into your stoma; this will allow us to visualise the large or small bowel which is extending to the site of your stoma on X-ray. A very small number of patients have an allergic reaction to the contrast agent. Before your examination the Radiographer will ask you a series of questions about your medical history, including any allergies you may have. This will help us assess if you are at risk of an allergic reaction.

This examination is performed by a specially trained Advanced Practitioner Radiographer or a consultant Radiologist. They will also produce a report after your examination for the Clinician. An assistant will also be in the examination room during your loopogram.

Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you are breastfeeding/chest feeding
- If you weigh over 28 stone (178kg)
- If you feel you may need further assistance with transferring (including the use of a hoist)

If you require an interpreter, please inform us as soon as you receive your appointment letter and we will arrange an official interpreter for you.

## Are there any special preparations required before the examination?

There is no specific preparation for this examination. However, we ask that you bring a spare stoma bag and all the equipment you usually use to change your stoma bag to your appointment.

## Can I bring a relative or friend with me?

Anyone can accompany you to the hospital but they will usually not be allowed into the room when you have your examination. Please note that we do not have child care facilities; if you need to bring your children with you please bring along an adult who can supervise them while your examination is being done.

## What happens when I arrive at the X-ray department?

When you arrive at the X-ray department please book-in at the reception desk where you will be asked to have a seat in the waiting area. You will then be shown through to the examination room where the Radiographer will check some details with you and complete a checklist to ensure it is safe for you to have the contrast agent. The Radiographer will explain the examination and answer any questions you may have. Before starting the examination the Radiographer will ask you to change into a hospital gown in the changing area which is connected to the examination room.

## What happens during the examination?

You will be asked to lie on your back on the X-ray table. The Radiographer will gently remove your stoma bag and cover your stoma with swabs to ensure any leakage is contained. The Radiographer will then gently introduce a small catheter (a soft, flexible tube) into your stoma, this should not be painful. Once the catheter is in place within your stoma / bowel a very small balloon, on the tip of the catheter, will be inflated with sterile water. The balloon ensures the catheter remains in position during the examination. As the balloon inflates you may have a sensation of pressure and a very mild discomfort which should wear off quickly once the balloon is sufficiently inflated. The Radiographer will

then move the X-ray camera so it is above your abdomen – the camera will not touch you. Once in position the Radiographer will slowly start to inject the contrast agent through the catheter; whilst doing this the Radiographer will also be taking X-rays to demonstrate the movement of the



contrast agent through your bowel. To encourage the contrast agent to flow to the necessary part of your bowel you may be asked to change positions such as turning towards your left side then towards your right side. When the Radiographer is confident they have the necessary X-rays they will deflate the balloon on the tip of the catheter inside your stoma. This will then allow the catheter to be easily removed. As the catheter is removed the Radiographer will cover your stoma with some more swabs to ensure your stoma and skin is clean and dry before placing your new stoma bag on for you.

## **What happens after the examination?**

Once your stoma bag is in place you will be able to get dressed and you may leave the hospital when you feel ready.

## Are there any side effects?

After the examination you may experience very minor bleeding from the stoma; this is normal after your examination due to the catheter being placed inside and should subside shortly after the examination.



## Are there any risks?

There are some small risks involved with X-rays but only the minimum amount of radiation is used to produce the images required. We use the smallest dose possible, in line with national regulations, to provide as much information as we can about your condition. This allows the doctors to make an accurate diagnosis to help plan your treatment, therefore the benefits of having the examination far outweigh the radiation dose you will receive.

## When will I receive the examination results?

The X-rays will be reported on by a Radiologist after your examination. The results will be sent to the Clinician who referred you for this examination. During your examination the Radiographer will advise you on how you will receive these results. Unfortunately, you will not receive any results on the day of your examination.

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact Royal Preston Hospital X-ray Department on **01772 522096**.

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

**Gujarati:**

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

**Romanian:**

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

**Polish:**

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

**Punjabi:**

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

**Urdu:**

دوسری زبانوں اور بڑی اگر آپ کوہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لئے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو  
یہی چھپا میں یہی ابی دست ہو سکت ہے براے مہر بیان پوے چھدی۔ معلومات

**Arabic:**

مطبوعة بأحرف كبيرة وبلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه المعلومات يرجى أن تطلب  
أخرى يمكن توفير هذه المعلومات

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