

Procedure Information: Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP)

What is a Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP)?

An Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP) is a radiographic exam of your kidneys, ureters, and urinary bladder that uses radiopaque contrast material (x-ray dye) injected into your vein. The contrast material travels through the blood stream and collects in the kidneys and urinary tract. This allows the radiologist to view the anatomy and function of the urinary system.

When is a Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP) ordered?

A Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP) is ordered when you have blood in your urine or pain in your back. The IVP exam can enable the radiologist to detect problems or abnormalities within the urinary tract resulting from:

Kidney Stones	Blockages or Strictures
Enlarged prostate	Previous surgery of urinary tract
Tumors	Congenital abnormalities

Patient Preparation

If any of the following apply to you, blood work (BUN and Creatinine) must be completed within 30 days of scheduled exam:

Age 60 or above	Kidney diseases
Asthma	Multiple myeloma
Heart disease	Diabetes
Hypertension (high blood pressure)	Dehydration
Recent contrast injection of radio plaque contrast (X-ray dye within 72 hours)	

Day Before test:

- Purchase 2 oz. of castor oil or 10 oz. of magnesium citrate. Take one of these liquids at 4pm
- Clear liquid diet (refer to list) after 5pm

Clear liquid diet:

Beverages—clear tea, coffee, soft drink, water, ice

Fruit juices—clear or strained fruit juices

Desserts—flavored gelatins

Soups—clear bouillon broth (fat free)

Sweets—sugar, honey, plain hard sugar candy

What happens during a Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP) procedure?

Please report 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time. You will be taken to a private changing room to put on a hospital gown. A radiographer will take you to an exam room, verify your identity (name and birth date) and obtain medical history for the radiologist. After signing consent for the contrast injection, you will be positioned on the examination table on your back. An image of your abdomen will be taken to make sure your bowel is clean from the prep before proceeding with the exam.

The contrast material will be injected into a vein in your arm. The radiographer will then obtain images asking you to turn from side to side into several different positions. At the end of the exam, you will be asked to empty your bladder (void), so an additional image can be taken of your bladder after it empties. The contrast will not discolor your urine or cause any discomfort when you urinate.

Length of procedure

An Intravenous Pyelogram is usually completed within an hour. However, because some kidneys function at a slower rate, the exam may last longer.

What will I experience after the procedure?

Some patients experience a warmth feeling throughout their body as the contrast is injected. This sensation is normal and only lasts about 1-2 minutes. Upon completion of the exam, you are asked to drink plenty of fluids to help your body get rid of the x-ray contrast. Please return to normal diet unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

What are the risks ?

X-ray contrast can cause allergic reactions in some patients, sometimes requiring medical treatment. Any procedure where the skin is broken always carries a slight risk of infection. Be cautious of any swelling or increase of pain at area of injection.

Consult your doctor if you have concerns following the exam.

*******IMPORTANT*******

If you are diabetic and take any oral diabetic medication, you may take your medication the of exam. Do not take your diabetic medication until your doctor approves your lab results (48 hour BUN and Creatinine) showing proper renal function and consults you to resume diabetic medications.