

Procedure Information: Loopogram

What is a Loopogram and when is it ordered?

A Loopogram is a radiographic exam that will visualize the loop of bowel that has been surgically connected to substitute for your urinary bladder. Contrast (X-ray dye) is introduced into your stoma through a small catheter in order to visualize the small bowel extending to the stoma.

A loopogram is ordered whenever there is a large amount of bladder removed, the ureters can be connected to a loop of small bowel which drains through an ostomy (also called an ilea) conduit) into an external drainage bag.

Patient Preparation

No preparation is necessary. Please bring an extra stoma bag and any dressings you may require because your drainage bag will be removed for the procedure. Report 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time.

What happens during a Loopogram procedure?

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 date of birth) and obtain medical history for the radiologist. After signing consent for the examination, you will be positioned on the examination table on your back. Your stoma bag will be removed. The radiologist will clean your urostomy stoma and insert a catheter. The catheter has a small balloon that will be inflated to keep the catheter in place. Contrast (x-ray dye) will be injected through the catheter and several images will be taken. This exam usually takes about 30 minutes to 1 hour.

What will I experience during and after the procedure?

You may feel minor discomfort and pressure in your abdomen when the contrast is being injected through your stoma. After the exam a new stoma bag is put on. You may notice a small amount of blood in your urine for a day or two, this is normal. Please return to normal diet unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

What are the risks?

Consult your doctor if you have concerns following the exam.