

Procedure Information: Nephrostogram

What is a Nephrostogram?

A Nephrostogram is a radiologic exam that determines if the kidneys drain sufficiently into the ureters and bladder. A Nephrostogram is used to evaluate the condition of the kidney. It can also be utilized when placing or checking position of a nephrostomy tube.

When is a Nephrostogram ordered?

A Nephrostogram may be ordered for a blockage in the kidney or removal of the kidney stone. This exam will determine if the stone and/or the blockage has disappeared.

Patient Preparation

There is no special prep for this exam although the patient must have a nephrostomy tube already positioned in the kidney.

What happens during a Nephrostogram 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 or slightly to your side. Contrast material (x-ray dye) will be injected through the nephrostomy tube by the radiologist and then x-rays will be taken. This procedure is painless although there is a possibility for the kidney to ache a little. The contrast placed through the catheter goes directly into the kidney. The x-rays will be taken in various positions. Depending on the condition of the patient and the reason the tube was placed, the nephrostomy tube may be removed after the procedure.

Length of procedure

This exam usually takes about 30 minutes to 1 hour.

What will I experience during and after the procedure?

You may experience some pressure in your kidneys, due to the contrast (x-ray dye) being injected through the nephrostomy tube.

What are the risks?

During recovery, it is important to watch out for the following:

- Development of a fever
- Urine has stopped draining through the catheter

There is a slight chance of infection that could occur after the test. It is important to inform your doctor if you develop a fever, chills, redness, swelling or if urine has stopped draining from the catheter.

Consult your doctor if you have concerns following the exam.