

Procedure Information: Sialogram

What is a Sialogram?

A Sialogram is a radiographic exam of the salivary glands. These are glands that help keep your mouth moist by secreting saliva through small tubes called ducts. This usually involves the injection of a small amount of contrast material (X-ray dye) into the salivary duct of a single gland, followed by routine X-ray projections.

When is a Sialogram ordered?

A Sialogram is ordered when you have discomfort or swelling in your face. Indications include:

Evaluate ductal pattern	Stone in glands
Any salivary gland pathology	Any obstructions in glands

Patient Preparation

There are no special preparations for this procedure. If you have dentures you will be asked to remove them for the procedure. Report 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time.

Procedure Information

You will be taken to an X-ray room, where the radiographer will verify your identity (name and date of birth) and obtain medical history for the radiologist. After signing consent, you will be positioned on your back for the exam. Lemons are sometimes used to dilate the ducts in your mouth. If necessary the radiologist may use lemons to get your mouth to secrete extra saliva and open up the duct. A small plastic tube then is inserted in the salivary gland duct. A small amount of contrast (X-ray dye) will be injected in the duct and the radiographer will take some images. This exam usually takes about 30 to 60 minutes. You may have a minor discomfort and a bitter taste as the X-ray contrast is injected into the salivary gland duct.

What are the risks?

You may notice slight swelling or pain to side of the face that was being examined. This usually passes within 24 hours. The contrast (X-ray dye) may cause allergic reactions in some patients, sometimes requiring medical treatment. Consult your doctor if you have concerns following this exam.