



## Your CT Myelogram Scan

# Scanning Department Radiology

## Great Western Hospital

If you need to cancel or you have queries or concerns  
please contact the department on

**01793 60 50 51**

Opening Hours

**Monday-Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm**



# Your CT Myelogram Scan

## **What is a CT?**

A computerised tomography (CT) scan uses X-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of the body.

## **What is a CT Myelogram?**

A CT myelogram is an injection into the spinal canal of the lower back followed by a CT scan through this region. A small amount of dye is injected into the spinal canal around the nerve root, helping to ascertain a cause for back pain or sciatica.

## **Are there any risks involved?**

There is a minimal risk of infection and allergies, but cases like these are rare. The Radiologist will explain the risks and procedure before starting the examination.

During your procedure you will receive a dose of ionising radiation to help us form images of your body and this will provide your doctor with detailed information. The radiation dose is always kept as low as possible.

The actual dose you receive will vary depending on the type of procedure you are having, but your doctor has considered this and feels that this is the best procedure for you to have to help diagnose or treat your condition.

We are all at risk of developing cancer in our lifetime and



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the added risk from undergoing your procedure is small and is outweighed because of the benefits it provides and every procedure that you have in Radiology has been assessed to ensure that the benefit outweighs the risk.

For more information see the displays within the department or ask a member of staff.

## **Are there any weight restrictions?**

**If you weigh more than 140 kg (22 stones) then please let us know.**

## **Why should I have this examination?**

Your Doctor has requested this investigation. They see it as an important and necessary diagnostic test for your current back symptoms.

## **Before:**

## **Is there anything I should do?**

- If you are using **Warfarin** it is important that you ring the department on the telephone number below as soon as possible. You will need advice about using it during the days coming up to your appointment.



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- When attending for your appointment please be aware that there are no child care facilities within Radiology.

**You must ring for further advice if you are breastfeeding, or think you might be pregnant.**

**Queries or concerns ring:  
(01793) 60 50 51**

**Monday – Friday  
9.30am – 4.30pm**

## **During:**

- You will be asked to undress and wear a hospital gown.
- The procedure involves an injection of local anaesthetic to numb the area.
- Then x-ray dye will be injected into the lower back. You will then be moved to the CT Scanner and the area injected imaged.
- This examination should be completed in half an hour, but please allow up to an hour in the department.



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## After:

- You **will not** be able to drive yourself home following this examination. Please consider this when making your transport arrangements.
- Once you have reached home you should rest for the remainder of the day. You should be able to resume normal activities the following day.
- For 48 hours post-procedure, do not apply direct heat or cold to the area (i.e. hot water bottles, hot baths, heat and cold packs). You may take your normal painkillers (but not aspirin) should there be any discomfort.

**This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email [gwh.pals@nhs.net](mailto:gwh.pals@nhs.net)**

### Document Control

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