



Preparation for Proctogram

Radiology Department

Great Western Hospital

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

01793 60 50 59

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm



Preparation for Proctogram

What is a Proctogram?

This is an examination to show how your bottom functions during the emptying of your bowels. The purpose of this test is to find out what may be causing your symptoms.

Are there any risks involved?

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 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.

There is a very small risk (1:2000 patients) of a small tear of the rectum. This usually only occurs if the patient has severe bowel inflammation.

Do I have to have this examination?

The doctor has requested this examination for you. It is the easiest way to gain the information needed to diagnose your problem.



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What do I have to do before I come?

There is no prior preparation requirements needed before the examination.

For females of child bearing age, you must ring for advice if:

You think you may be pregnant

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Weight Limit

There is a weight limit of 146kg (23 stone) for the equipment.

Please ring for further advice if you think you may be too heavy.

What does a Proctogram involve?

- The procedure usually lasts about 2 hours.
- You will be asked to drink liquid called barium an hour and half before the examination. This allows us to see your small bowel.
- You will be asked to change into a gown.
- When you are ready you will be asked to lie on your side on a trolley.
- Some barium paste will be inserted into your back passage using a small soft tube.



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- We will then ask you to sit on a specially designed commode (like a toilet). You will be surrounded by a modesty curtain.
- Once comfortable we will begin to x-ray in three stages, first at rest, second we will ask you to squeeze hold of the barium, the third we will ask to you to empty your bowels.
- When we have finished you will be able to go to the toilet if needed and get dressed.

After

- There are no after effects. You will be able to drive yourself home
- You may eat and drink normally
- The results will not be available on the day.
- The Radiologist will study the images and write a report.
- You will receive a letter or follow up appointment from the clinic to discuss the results

From 1st January 2019 smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

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

Document Control

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