

Loopogram

A member of your multidisciplinary team (MDT) has recommended that you have a loopogram which is an examination of part of your bowel.

This information sheet explains what to expect when you come into the hospital, what the procedure involves, the possible risks and aftercare advice.

What is a loopogram?

A loopogram is a fluoroscopy procedure (an examination performed under x-ray guidance) which investigates part of the bowel. The examination is carried out on patients with a stoma (an opening of the bowel onto the surface of the abdomen) to show the loop of bowel that has been used as a substitute for your urinary bladder.

How long will it take?

The procedure will take approximately 30 minutes, however in some cases it may take longer.

When you arrive

Please report to the reception desk in the x-ray department with your appointment letter. The reception staff will show you where to wait until a radiographer or other member of staff comes to collect you.

Upon collection, we will escort you to an x-ray room and ask you to change into a hospital gown and to remove any metal objects from the area that is to be examined (jewellery, zip, metallic fastenings and so on). You will be cared for by a small team including a radiologist and a radiographer.

What does this examination involve?

During the procedure, your stoma bag will be removed, the area will be cleaned and a thin lubricated catheter (tube) will then be placed into your stoma. You may experience some slight discomfort as the catheter is pushed in.

The catheter will be used to inject contrast liquid (a dye that shows up on x-rays) and we will take images in various positions. The radiologist and radiographer will be with you at all times to assist you.



What preparation do I need?

There is no specific preparation for a loopogram examination. Your stoma bag will be removed during the examination, so please bring a **spare bag** with you to replace after the procedure.

You can continue taking any medication as normal. If you have any allergies, you must tell your doctors. If you have previously reacted to intravenous contrast medium (the dye used for kidney x-ray and CT scans) also let your doctors know.

Patients should inform the x-ray staff if they are or might be pregnant before the day of the procedure.

After the examination

After the procedure you will be helped to replace your stoma bag. Some of the contrast dye may drain back into your bag – this is normal. You can return to the ward or go home immediately after the appointment as there are no side effects.

When will I get the results?

The radiologist will examine the images and send a report on the findings to your referring doctor within seven days of your examination. Your referring doctor will contact you to discuss the results.

Are there any risks?

Occasionally allergic reactions to contrast can occur.

We will expose you to ionising radiation when we carry out this examination. We are all exposed to ionising radiation from naturally occurring sources such as cosmic rays, certain types of soil and rocks and even food we eat. Ionising radiation can cause cell damage that in turn, after many years, may turn cancerous. The radiation associated with your exam will therefore carry a small risk which is less than 0.1%. This risk will be far outweighed by the benefits of having this exposure. We will also tailor the amount of radiation we use to you.

Usually there are no prolonged or late side effects from the procedure.

If you become unwell after your procedure when you get home, you can either contact your GP or your local Accident and Emergency department.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, but for safety reasons they will not be able to accompany you into the x-ray room except in very special circumstances.

Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns about your procedure, or you are unable to attend this appointment, please call the Radiology Department (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm) on:



Chelsea: 020 7808 2571

Sutton: 020 8661 3736

Alternatively, please call:

The Royal Marsden Macmillan Hotline: 020 8915 6899

(available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

