

## Edith Cavell Hospital Department of Urology



### Having an Intravenous Urogram (IVU)

#### **What is an Intravenous Urogram (IVU)?**

An Intravenous Urogram (IVU) is sometimes called an Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP).

It is an x-ray examination which looks at your kidneys, ureters (the tubes leading from the kidneys to the bladder) and bladder, to look for possible problems. A dye is injected intravenously (into the veins) which outlines the kidneys, ureters and bladder.

#### **What happens before the examination?**

You will be asked not to eat and drink for 4-6 hours before the examination (this can improve the quality of the x-rays). However if you are diabetic, you will be allowed to eat and drink. You will be asked to change into a hospital gown prior to the examination.

#### **Do you have any allergies?**

It is important that you inform the nurse, doctor or radiographer of any known allergies, or if you suffer from asthma or hay fever. If you have had an IVU performed in the past, did you experience any problems? If so, please let us know. **Diabetic patients who use tablet medication to control their diabetes may NOT be suitable for an IVU and MUST inform the x-ray staff which medications they are taking when they attend.**

#### **How long does it take?**

The whole procedure takes approximately one hour, it can occasionally take longer.

### **Will I feel any pain?**

No, however some people experience a little discomfort when the dye is injected.

### **What happens in the x-ray department?**

You will be asked to lay on your back on the x-ray table. A small injection will be given in your arm. It is quite common to experience a metallic taste in your mouth and a warm sensation (similar to a hot flush feeling) as the dye is injected. This only lasts for a short period of time, approximately two minutes. A series of x-rays are taken which show the dye filtering through the urinary system. A band of cloth may be wrapped around your abdomen for a short period of time during the examination (this helps to improve the x-rays of your kidneys).

### **What about my results?**

The results of your IVU will be discussed by doctor who requested the examination.

### **Any questions?**

This leaflet has been written by the nursing and medical staff who work in the Urology Unit.

If you have any questions, jot them down here and ask the nursing or medical staff for answers.

**Urology Department , Ward 11 - Telephone (01733) 875311**

### **Please do not hesitate to ask the nursing staff**

If you have any further questions

### **DISCLAIMER**

THE MOST STRENUOUS EFFORTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN THESE PAGES IS FACTUALLY CORRECT AND CONTAINS UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

HOWEVER, NEITHER THE AUTHOR, PETERBOROUGH HOSPITALS NHS TRUST, NOR ANY OF THE PERSONS MENTIONED IN THESE PAGES WILL ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY INJURY TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY WHICH MAY OCCUR AS A RESULT OF ADVICE OR IDEAS CONTAINED WITHIN THESE PAGES.

YOU ARE THEREFORE MOST STRONGLY ADVISED TO SEEK COMPETENT MEDICAL  
ADVICE FROM A REGISTERED MEDICAL OR SURGICAL PRACTITIONER.

© Mr C Dawson 2006: All rights reserved. No part of these web pages may be reproduced  
or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying,  
recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without prior written permission  
from the Author.