

About Your Myelogram



IH-III-25
R.D. 7/05
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What should I know about this test?

A myelogram is an x-ray test of your spine. This test is usually done to look for causes of back or neck pain, numbness or weakness. You will **not** be “put to sleep” under general anesthesia during this test.

How should I get ready for the myelogram?

- Tell the nurse if:
 - You are allergic to IV contrast dye.
 - You are pregnant.
 - You are taking **Coumadin (Warfarin)**.
 - You are taking **Plavix**
 - You are taking any medicines on the “Hold” list which will be sent to you.



The night before the test:

- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight.

On the day of your test:

- Take your usual heart and blood pressure medicine.
- If you have diabetes, **do not** take your diabetes pills or insulin.
- At 7:00 am come to the Radiology Special Procedures which is on the Ground Floor by the escalators.
- Do not drive. Have a family member or friend bring you and plan to take you home.

What will happen during the myelogram?

- To do the test:
 - The doctor will numb a place on the skin of your back or neck.

(over)

- The doctor will put a small needle through your numb skin into the space below your spinal cord.
- Contrast dye will be put into this space through the needle.
- The doctor will take the needle out.
- An X-ray technician will take X-ray pictures of your neck or back.
- You will then have a CAT or CT scan.

What happens after the myelogram is done?

- You will be at the hospital in the X-ray Recovery Room for about 4 - 6 hours. While you are there you will be lying down with your head propped up. A nurse will keep a close check on you until the doctor says you are ready to leave.
- You will be given lunch to eat while you are in the X-ray Recovery Room.

When you get home:

- Rest in bed for the rest of the day.
- You may go back to doing your usual activities the next day.



When will I find out the results of the myelogram?

The doctor will tell you the results of your test when you come to your next clinic appointment.

If you don't have a clinic appointment scheduled, call to make an appointment.

