Fistulogram
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Your doctor has arranged for you to have a special X-ray called a fistulogram. A colourless IV contrast (X-ray dye) will be injected into your blood vessels to look inside your dialysis access (fistula). This is to look for any narrowing(s) in the access.

How long will it take?

• You will get an appointment time for the fistulogram.
• The actual test will take about 15-30 minutes.

My appointment

Date: ____________________________________________
Time: ____________________________________________

If you can’t keep your appointment, please call the dialysis nurse or the booking office right away so that another patient can be booked in your time slot: 902-473-5477.
Who will do my fistulogram?
An interventional radiologist (a doctor who specializes in X-ray procedures) will do the test. A nurse and X-ray technologist will also be in the room.

Where is the test done?
You will be asked to register at:
› X-ray, 3rd floor
› Dickson Building, Victoria General site

How do I get ready?
• Bring your Nova Scotia Health Card with you.
• You may eat and drink as usual.
• Take your usual medications.
• If you are pregnant, tell your referring doctor (the doctor who sent you for this test) and the radiologist.
• If you have an allergy to X-ray dye, tell your referring doctor and the radiologist.
How is the fistulogram done?

- You will be taken into the X-ray room and asked to lie on the table.
- A small intravenous (IV) needle will be inserted (put) into your dialysis access.
- You may be asked to sign a consent form. If you have any questions, please ask.
- A blood pressure cuff or tourniquet will go on your fistula arm for a short time to help with the test.
- The radiologist will inject a dye through your IV. When the dye is injected, you may have a warm feeling. This will only last a few seconds. The technologist will take a series of X-rays.
- After the X-rays are taken, the radiologist will take out the IV. Pressure will be placed on the insertion site for 10 minutes. This is to prevent any bleeding.

What happens next?

- After the test, you will be able to go home or to the Dialysis Unit. Staff will tell you where to go.
- You may eat and drink as usual.
- You can return to your usual activities on the day after the test.
What are the risks of this specific test?
The risks with this test can include but are not limited to the following listed below.

Common risks and complications include:
• Minor pain, bruising, and/or infection from the IV needle insertion.

Less common risks and complications include:
• Medication may be given to help with possible allergic reactions. Allergic reaction to the IV X-ray dye could result in:
  › Rash
  › Hives
  › Itching
  › Nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)
  › Fainting
  › Shortness of breath

The X-ray dye we use is very safe and it is very rare to have a serious reaction when having a fistulogram.

All X-ray tests have some exposure to radiation. The amount of radiation varies. The duration (length of time) and amount of exposure to X-rays is strictly controlled and kept as low as possible.

If you have any questions, please ask.
We are here to help you.
When can I get the results?
Your nephrologist or nurse practitioner will give you the results of the test.

Call your doctor or go to the nearest Emergency Department if you have: increasing pain, swelling or bleeding from your fistula or graft.

Notes:
Looking for more health information?
Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.
For more information go to http://library.novascotia.ca

Capital Health promotes a smoke-free, vape-free, and scent-free environment.
Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!

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The information is not intended to be and does not constitute healthcare or medical advice.
If you have any questions, please ask your healthcare provider.

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