

Sialogram

WHAT IS A SIALOGRAM?

A sialogram is an x-ray test using contrast (x-ray dye) to look at the larger salivary glands (the parotid or submandibular) in detail. These glands help to keep your mouth moist by draining saliva into your mouth through small tubes called ducts. The salivary glands and ducts cannot be seen on ordinary x-rays so contrast is used to demonstrate them.

HOW IS A SIALOGRAM PERFORMED?

Preliminary x-rays are taken of the salivary glands. A small plastic tube is then inserted into the tiny opening inside your mouth that leads to the duct of the particular salivary gland you are having trouble with. Once this tube is in the correct position, contrast will be injected through it into the salivary gland. Another set of x-rays are taken to show the salivary duct and gland with the contrast. These images are then compared to the initial (control) x-rays.

Once the radiologist is satisfied that they have all the information they need, the tube is removed.

The procedure usually takes about 30 minutes.

BEFORE A SIALOGRAM:

- There is no special preparation necessary for a sialogram. If you have dentures, you may be asked to remove them.

AFTER A SIALOGRAM:

- Once the test is finished you will be able to go home or back to work and you can eat and drink normally.
- Although it is unlikely that you will develop any infection at the site of the examination, we ask that you monitor it for any signs of redness and inflammation or increasing pain. If inflammation or redness does occur, you will need to contact either your GP or your referring doctor.
- The radiologist will send a written report of the procedure to your referring doctor later in the day.

Sialoplasty:

WHAT IS A SIALOPLASTY?

A sialoplasty is a procedure to dilate an obstructed salivary gland. A very fine wire is passed through the obstructed duct then a small catheter is threaded over the wire. Once in the correct location, the balloon on the end of the catheter is inflated to dilate the duct.