What is an Intravenous Cholangiogram (IVC)?
An IVC is a scan that examines the bile ducts. It involves infusing a contrast dye through the body to locate potential gallstones within these bile ducts. An IVC can also be used to identify other causes of obstruction to the normal flow of bile, for example, narrowing (strictures) of the bile ducts and cancers.

Risks of an IVC:
Risks of an IVC are rare but include an allergic reaction to the contrast dye used. Allergic reactions can be treated and you will be monitored by a nurse for the duration of your scan.

Tell staff at the time of booking and when you attend your procedure if you have had a previous allergic reaction to an x-ray dye.

What to bring:
Please bring any relevant imaging scans (film packet or a CD containing X-rays, CT scans, ultrasound or MRIs etc.).

Preparation:
A recent Bilirubin result is necessary. If one is not already available you will be required to have a blood test for this on the day of your scan.

Eating/drinking:
You will be required not to eat or drink for 4 hours before your scan.

Medications:
Tell staff at the time of booking if you are taking any diabetic medication that contains METFORMIN as it may need to be ceased.

Procedure:
On arrival to the hospital a nurse will discuss with you your medical history and insert a small plastic tube (cannula) into a vein in your hand or arm.

The doctor will explain the procedure and discuss with you the potential risks and you will be asked to sign a consent form.

You will be lying on a bed and your heart rate and blood pressure will be monitored by nursing staff for the duration of the infusion of the contrast dye. The nurse will start the infusion which runs for approximately 30 minutes. During this time you will be closely monitored by a nurse for any signs of an allergic reaction. Let the nurse know if you have any concerns during this time.
CT Intravenous Cholangiogram
Radiology Service

After the infusion has finished you will remain lying down on a bed for another 30 minutes to allow the contrast dye to outline the biliary system. After the 30 minutes you will be taken to the CT room for your scan.

Post Procedure Care:
After your scan you will remain in the recovery bay for 30 minutes for monitoring to ensure you do not develop an allergic reaction.

Discharge:
You will be able to go home 30 minutes after the completion of your scan if you have no other medical conditions or concerns that require further treatment.

Results:
The results together with the procedure report will be sent to your referring doctor. Return to your doctor to discuss examination results.

Radiation Risk:
Most medical imaging tests, except MRI and ultrasound, involve exposure to radiation from X-rays. Your doctor considers that the benefits of the examination you require to be greater than the small risk posed by the radiation exposure.

Contact information:
Ph: (03) 9076 0357
Email: radiologybookings@alfred.org.au

Radiology – the Alfred
55 Commercial Road, Melbourne VIC 3004
T +613 9076 2000
alfredhealth.org.au

Contact information:
Ph. 9076 1411
Email: shradiologybookings@alfred.org.au

Radiology – Sandringham Hospital
193 Bluff Rd Sandringham 3191
alfredhealth.org.au

Further information:
References
Inside Radiology: www.insideradiology.com.au

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

Further information: Consult with your referring Medical Practitioner.

If you would like to provide feedback contact us at patient.information@alfred.org.au