CT Enteroclysis

Radiology Service

Information for patients

What is a CT Enteroclysis?
CT (computed tomography) Enteroclysis is a scan that looks at the small bowel. A long flexible plastic tube is inserted through the nose into the small bowel. This allows the administration of large amounts of fluid to distend the small bowel for the CT scan.

Why would my doctor request this test?
- To investigate for inflammatory bowel disease such as Crohn’s disease.
- Bowel obstructions.
- Abnormal gastrointestinal bleeds.

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

Preparation:
Tell staff at the time of booking and when you attend your procedure if you have any allergies, have had a previous reaction to an x-ray dye or if you have kidney disease. This ensures that the appropriate measures are taken to carry out the procedure with maximum safety.

Eating/drinking:
You are required to fast from midnight the night before your scan.

Medications:
Tell staff at the time of booking if you are taking any diabetic medication as it may need to be ceased. Generally diabetic oral medication will be withheld the day of your procedure and for 48 hours after.

Continue taking other medications as prescribed, unless directed otherwise by medical or nursing staff prior to your procedure.

On the day of your scan, please bring with you a list of all medications you are taking.

Procedure:
The first part of the exam takes place in the Radiology Fluoroscopy room where a cannula (small plastic tube) will be inserted into a vein in your hand or arm to provide access for medications and intravenous x-ray dye during the procedure.

Local anaesthetic will then be sprayed into the nose and throat prior to insertion of the tube. The tube is placed into the nose and gently manoeuvred down and placed in the part of the small bowel called the jejunum. The local anaesthetic reduces the discomfort that you may feel while it is being inserted.
Prior to the CT scan a nurse will administer fluid through the tube in your nose. You will then be taken into the CT room for your scan.

Just before the scan you will be asked go to the toilet and empty your bladder.

The abdominal CT scan is then started. During the CT scan the staff will inject medications and an x-ray dye through the cannula. Buscopan, which relaxes the digestive tract muscles, may be given. Please notify our staff if you have glaucoma as the use of Buscopan is cautioned in patients with glaucoma.

The CT scan usually takes around 45 minutes to be completed but expect to spend a total of 1.5 hours- 2 hours in the Radiology Department.

Post Procedure Care:
Generally you will be able to go home immediately after your procedure if you have no other medical conditions or concerns that require further treatment.

Discharge:
- You may experiences loose bowel movements and abdominal cramping/bloating post procedure due to the bowel preparation that is given during the procedure.
- Resume eating and drinking as soon as possible post exam, this will also help reduce bowel discomfort.
- Diabetics that are taking oral medications will generally restart their tablets after 48 hours if they have been stopped. The doctor will discuss this with you prior to discharge.
- You will be provided with an information sheet regarding discharge instructions upon completion of your procedure.

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.

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