

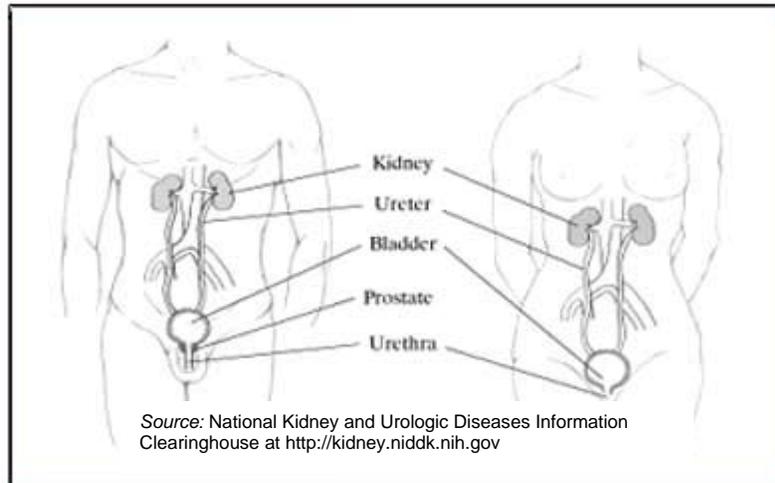
## *Greenwich Hospital*

### **What is an Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP)?**

#### **PATIENT/FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET**

#### **What is an Intravenous Pyelogram?**

An intravenous pyelogram, or IVP, is an x-ray exam of the urinary tract—the kidneys, ureters, and urinary bladder. There are many illnesses and conditions that can affect these organs, such as kidney stones, infections, problems related to emptying your bladder, and/or tumors. The IVP will help your doctor to determine whether or not you are having difficulties with your urinary tract.



#### **How do I prepare for the IVP?**

- You will be given specific instructions regarding any diet restrictions, fluid intake, and bowel preparation prior to the day of the procedure by your doctor.
- Certain medications may need to be stopped prior to or the day of the procedure, so it is important to review with your doctor and/or technologist all of the medications you are currently taking. For example, the drug Glucophage taken by some people with diabetes is withheld the day of the procedure and stopped for 2 days **after** the procedure.
- You will be asked to remove your clothing and to put on a hospital gown.
- You may be asked to remove items such as jewelry, eyeglasses, and/or any other metal objects because these items will show up on the films.
- It is important to inform the technologist of any past history of allergic reactions to contrast media.
- **For female patients, if there is any possibility that you are pregnant, be sure to inform the technologist of this prior to the exam.**

## How is the IVP performed?

- The technologist will assist in positioning you on an examination table.
- You will have a preliminary film taken.
- The technologist will then use a very small butterfly shaped catheter to inject contrast media into your arm. This contrast media is used to make your urinary tract stand out more clearly on the films. Some people experience a warm sensation when the contrast media is injected.
- The contrast media will quickly move through your blood stream to your urinary tract, which will make the kidneys, ureters, and urinary bladder easier to see on the films. The contrast media is removed from your body naturally in your urine.
- Each time an x-ray film is taken, you will be asked to hold as perfectly still as you can and to hold your breath for a few seconds. The films are taken with the x-ray tube moving above you and the film moving below you.
- Near the end of the film, you will be asked to go the rest room to empty your bladder for a last film with your bladder empty.
- After the procedure, you will be asked to wait while the radiologist checks the film to make sure that they contain all the necessary information. Sometimes he may ask to have more films taken.
- Once the examination is completed and the radiologist has checked the films, you may get dressed and leave the Diagnostic Imaging Department.
- Your doctor will call you with the results of the IVP.

## Is the IVP safe?

X-rays are safe and effective for diagnosing different illnesses and conditions. Some people experience a mild itching sensation from the contrast media. In rare cases, patients experience shortness of breath or swelling in the throat and other parts of the body. This is a reaction to the contrast media and it is important to alert the technologist immediately if you are experiencing these symptoms. **For female patients, if there is any possibility that you are pregnant, be sure to inform the technologist of this prior to the exam.**

Source: Virginia Radiology Associates @ [www.virginiaradiology.com](http://www.virginiaradiology.com) Retrieved 3/05.

*For more Patient Fact Sheets, see the Greenwich Hospital web site at [www.greenhosp.org](http://www.greenhosp.org) and Click on Patients & Visitors, then Patient Education*