



Patient & Family Guide
2021

Fistulogram



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Fistulogram

Your doctor has arranged for you to have a special X-ray called a fistulogram. A colourless contrast (X-ray dye) will be injected into your blood vessels using an IV (intravenous line). This dye will help your health care team see your dialysis access (fistula). This is to look for any narrowing (s) in the access.

This test will take about 15 to 30 minutes.

My appointment

Date: _____ Time: _____

If you cannot 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:

› Phone: 902-473-5477

Who will do my fistulogram?

An interventional radiologist (doctor who specializes in X-rays) will do the test. A nurse and an X-ray technologist will also be in the room.

Where is the test done?

The test will take place in

- › X-ray Department, 3rd floor
- › Dickson Building, Victoria General site, QEII

Please come immediately to your appointment — you do not need to register at a kiosk on the main level.

How do I get ready?

- Bring your Nova Scotia Health Card with you.
- You may eat and drink as usual.
- Take your usual medication(s).
- 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 may be asked to sign a consent form. If you have any questions, please ask.
- You will be taken into the X-ray room and asked to lie on the table.
- A small IV needle will be inserted (put) into your dialysis access.
- A blood pressure cuff will be put 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. This will not hurt. 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. You do not need to take a day off of work or school for this test.

What are the risks of this test?

The risks of this test can include, but are not limited to:

- Common risks and complications
 - › Minor pain, bruising, and/or infection from the IV needle insertion
- Less common risks and complications
 - › Allergic reaction to the X-ray dye

Signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction:

- › Rash
- › Hives
- › Itching
- › Nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)
- › Fainting
- › Shortness of breath

Your health care team may give you medication to help with possible allergic reactions.

The X-ray dye we use is very safe. Serious reactions during or after a fistulogram are very rare.

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

When will I get the results?

The results of your test will be available the next day. Your nephrologist (kidney doctor) or nurse practitioner will discuss the results of the test with you.

Call your primary health care provider or go to the nearest Emergency Department if you have any of the following:

- › **Pain that is getting worse**
- › **Swelling at or near your injection site**
- › **Bleeding from your fistula or graft (artificial tube)**

Notes:

Looking for more health information?

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here: <https://library.nshealth.ca/PatientEducation>

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time: call 811 or visit <https://811.novascotia.ca>

Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

Nova Scotia Health Authority 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 health care or medical advice.

If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.

