

# Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

## Having a sialogram

This leaflet has been designed to improve your understanding of your forthcoming investigation and contains answers to many of the common questions. If you have any other questions that the leaflet does not answer or would like further explanation please ask your surgeon.

### What is a sialogram?

A sialogram is a dye investigation of a salivary gland. It is carried out to look in detail at the larger salivary glands, namely the parotid or submandibular glands. These glands drain saliva into your mouth through small tubes (ducts). The parotid duct opens on the inside of the cheek next to the upper back teeth. The submandibular duct opens on the inside of the mouth under the tongue immediately behind the lower front teeth.

### What does a sialogram involve?

The radiologist who performs your sialogram will pass a small plastic tube into the duct of the saliva gland under investigation. The tube is blunt and therefore this part of the investigation is not particularly painful and does not require a local anaesthetic injection. Once this tube is in the correct position dye will be injected through it into the saliva gland. This takes a few minutes. The tube is then removed after the X-ray pictures are taken.

### How long will the sialogram take?

It usually takes around 30 minutes to perform the investigation from start to finish. However, it is important to remember that if a sialogram takes a little longer it does not necessarily mean that there is something wrong.

### Can I eat or drink?

You may eat, drink and continue to take any medication prior to your sialogram.

### Does it hurt?

A sialogram is painless although you may experience some discomfort in your salivary gland as the dye is injected into it.

## Is there anything else that I need to know?

It takes a long time to look at all the pictures that your sialogram produces and so the report will not be available for several days. You will be sent an appointment to be reviewed in the outpatient department. At this appointment we will discuss the findings of your sialogram and any further treatment that might be necessary.

### Adapted from:

British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

<http://www.baoms.org.uk/>



We are currently working towards a smoke-free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS Stop Smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

### Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or

[patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)



### Document history

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Contact number	01223 216412
Publish/Review date	February 2011/February 2014 (no changes made)
File name	Having_a_sialogram
Version number/Ref	3/PIN0698