

UnityPoint Health - Finley Hospital Radiology Patient/Family Information  
**IVP Preparation - Adult**

**What is an IVP?**

An Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP) is a diagnostic examination of the kidneys, ureters and bladder using x-ray images.

**Special Note**

Before the exam please inform your doctor if you are, or there is a possibility you may be, pregnant or are nursing.

It is also important to inform your physician if you have had a previous reaction to x-ray dye or have a history of multiple myeloma.

**Adult IVP Preparation**

Please bring your medication list with you to your exam.

1. Take four Dulcolax (Bisacodyl) tablets at five minutes intervals, starting at 4:00 .pm. the day before the scheduled exam. Drink at least two glasses of water with each tablet.
2. No solid foods are allowed after 4:00 pm. A clear liquid only evening meal is allowed. Clear liquids include water, clear gelatin, lemon-lime soda, orange or grape punch (not juice) and broth. Clear liquids may be taken up to the time of the exam.
3. Remove foil and insert one Dulcolax (Bisacodyl) suppository rectally at 7:00 am on the day of the exam.

**You will need to have a blood test before the IVP exam if you:**

- Are 60 years or older
- Have diabetes, kidney disease
- Have had an exam within the past 7 days in which a contrast material was injected.
- Have only one kidney

Please arrive 30 minutes before your appointment time to complete the blood test.

**What Happens During the Test?**

The radiographer will take preliminary x-ray images. A radiologist (a physician specializing in x-ray diagnosis) will use these images and a brief history to determine the amount of medication to be injected, as well as the imaging needed for the exam. The history includes weight, allergies (if any), laboratory reports and any current symptoms.

The medication used is a contrast medium. It is injected into a vein and makes the organ or tissue show up on the x-ray image. During the injection you may feel warm and flushed. You may also notice a metallic taste in your mouth. This is a normal reaction to the contrast medium. It will last only a

minute or so and is not cause for alarm. Let the radiographer know if you begin to itch, feel short of breath or are otherwise uncomfortable.

The radiographer will then take a series of x-ray images. A typical sequence would start with one x-ray immediately after the injection, followed by three special x-ray images using a moving x-ray tube. Additional images are taken approximately 10 minutes after injection, with one showing the urinary bladder after urination. Delayed images may also be required and the routine may vary slightly with each patient.

### **After Your IVP**

Resume your normal diet and activity. Continue drinking fluids, unless your doctor has specifically ordered otherwise. The contrast medium injected as part of the procedure will be eliminated through urine, although you will not be able to detect it.

It is important that you understand your IVP procedure. We encourage you to ask any questions of your physician, nurse, or the Radiology staff.

### **When Will I Know the Results?**

The radiologist will review all the x-rays and information shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss these results with you.

Please allow your physician the time needed to review these results.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Exam Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_