

## Patient information factsheet

# Having a T-tube cholangiogram

We have given you this factsheet because you have been referred for a T-tube cholangiogram. It explains what a T-tube cholangiogram is and what will happen at your appointment, so you know what to expect. We hope it will answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us using the details at the end of this factsheet.

### What is a T-tube cholangiogram?

A T-tube cholangiogram is an x-ray test (a procedure that uses radiation to produce images of the inside of the body) to examine your bile ducts (tubes that connect your liver and gallbladder to your small bowel) using the drain (known as a 'T-tube') that has been left in after your procedure or operation.

### How should I prepare for the procedure?

No special preparation is needed before arriving at the hospital and you can eat and drink as normal on the day.

### Allergies

Please contact us as soon as possible if you have had any reactions to iodine or x-ray contrast (a liquid that is visible on x-rays) in the past.

### Pregnancy

If you are pregnant or think there is a chance that you might be pregnant, please contact us before your appointment.

### Additional support

Please let us know as soon as you receive your appointment letter if you have problems standing or transferring from a wheelchair so that we can make sure we have the appropriate equipment and support available.

If you have any personal health concerns which you feel may affect your safety in the department, or if you think you may need assistance, please let us know when you arrive.

### Clothing and jewellery

We will ask you to change into a hospital gown for this procedure.

We will also ask you to remove any jewellery that may interfere with the x-ray images. As a department, we cannot take responsibility if these items are lost or misplaced, so we advise removing all jewellery at home before your appointment.

## What will happen during the procedure?

The procedure will be performed by a radiologist (a doctor who uses x-rays to diagnose illnesses) in the radiology department.

Once you have changed into a hospital gown, we will take you to the examination room. We will then introduce you to the team who will be performing your procedure and explain what will happen during the procedure. This is a good opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have.

We will ask you to lie down on the x-ray table. We will then inject x-ray contrast through your drain so your bile ducts and bowel are visible on x-rays. We will then take some x-ray images.

Most people do not find the procedure painful, but you may experience some discomfort when we inject the x-ray contrast.

## How long will the procedure take?

The procedure usually takes approximately 30 minutes. However, you should expect to be in the department for at least two hours in total.

## What will happen after the procedure?

We recommend that you stay in the hospital for one hour after the procedure in case you feel unwell. We also recommend that you have someone with you for the rest of the day.

No special care is necessary after the procedure and you can return to your usual daily activities.

## Are there any risks?

### Infection

There is a very small risk that you may develop an infection as a result of the procedure.

Contact your general practitioner (GP) or go to your nearest emergency department immediately if you feel unwell or experience any of the following symptoms in the days after your procedure:

- abdominal (tummy) pain
- shivers
- sweats

### Radiation

During your procedure, we will use x-rays to see inside your body. This procedure cannot be done without x-rays. All x-rays use ionising radiation which increases your risk of cancer, but for this procedure, the risk is very low.

Your doctor has decided that the benefit to you from the procedure outweighs the very low risk from the radiation. We will not expose you to any more radiation than is absolutely necessary.

### Pregnancy

This procedure involves the use of ionising radiation (x-rays) which although considered safe for you, may be harmful to an unborn baby. As such, we have a legal obligation to check if there is any chance that you may be pregnant. We have to ask this question to anyone who has the potential to become pregnant, regardless of age or circumstances.

# Patient information factsheet

## When will I receive the results?

We will not be able to give you any results or feedback on the day of your procedure. We will examine the x-ray images and then send a report of our findings to the doctor who referred you for the procedure.

If you were referred by a doctor at the hospital, this report should be available at your next outpatient appointment.

## Further information

### Transport

If you are arriving by car, please be advised that our car parks can get very busy, so it's a good idea to allow plenty of time to find a space. You may wish to consider getting a lift or coming by public transport.

If you have a medical condition that means you need help getting to and from the hospital, please contact the patient transport service directly on **0300 123 9833**.

### Bringing someone with you

We do not advise bringing children with you to your appointment as they cannot stay with you while you have the procedure and they must not be left unattended at any time.

If you do bring children with you, you will need to arrange for a responsible adult to look after them while you have the procedure. Please note that our staff are not able to supervise your children on your behalf. If this causes any difficulties, please contact us to rearrange your appointment using the details below.

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns before or after your procedure, please contact the radiology department using the details below.

Radiology department

Telephone: **023 8120 6079** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

If you are unsure as to why you need this procedure, please speak to the doctor or clinical team who referred you.

## Useful links

[www.uhs.nhs.uk/for-visitors/southampton-general-hospital/getting-here](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/for-visitors/southampton-general-hospital/getting-here)

If you are a patient at one of our hospitals and need this document translated, or in another format such as easy read, large print, Braille or audio, please telephone **0800 484 0135** or email **PFSH@uhs.nhs.uk**

For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit **www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport**