



X-Plain

IVP- Intra Venous Pyelogram

Reference Summary

Introduction

People can have a variety of problems with their kidneys and urinary tract.

An intravenous pyelogram, or IVP, is a kidney and bladder x-ray. This test helps your doctors look at the kidneys and bladder.

If your doctor recommends an IVP for you, the decision whether or not to have this procedure is also yours.

This reference summary will help you understand better the benefits and risks of this procedure.

Anatomy

Humans normally have two kidneys. The kidneys' main function is to filter the blood and make urine.

The urine then trickles from the kidneys to the bladder through specialized ducts called ureters. The urine is then stored in the bladder.

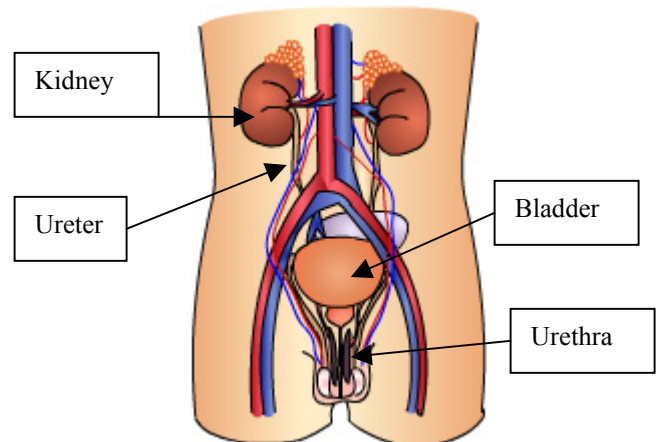
When the bladder gets full, the urine is expelled from the body through the urethra.

Symptoms and Their Causes

Many diseases can affect the urinary systems, kidney, or bladder.

These include tumors, kidney stones, problems emptying the bladder, and kidney, ureter, or bladder malformations.

An IVP helps the doctor decide if you have any of these conditions.



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Procedure

An IVP is usually an outpatient procedure. You may go home at the end of the test.

Iodine dye is injected in the vein of the arm. From there, the dye passes into the kidneys.

The kidneys pick up the dye and mix it with urine. The urine then passes through the ureters into the bladder.

From there, the dye is discharged out of the body through the urethra.

X-rays are then taken of the kidney and bladder area to determine if and how fast both kidneys are functioning.

Because the dye passes through people at different speeds, many x-rays need to be done. The x-rays have to be checked by the radiologist continuously.

Because of these differences, it is difficult to tell exactly how long the test will take.

You will be asked to go to the restroom, and further x-rays will be done to show how well the bladder empties.

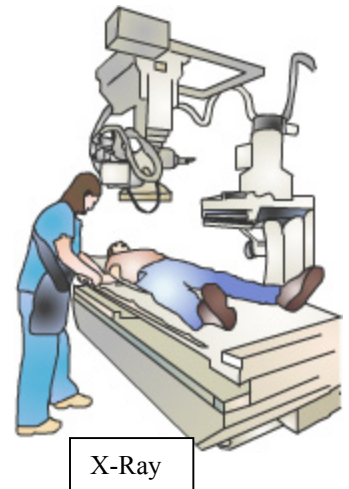
This test is not painful.

After the test is completed, you may not be able to drive yourself, so it is important to have somebody to drive you home.

Risks and Complications

This procedure is very safe. There are however several possible risks and complications. These are very unlikely but possible. You need to know about them just in case they happen. By being informed, you may be able to help your doctor detect complications early.

X-rays are used during this procedure. The amount of radiation during this test is deemed safe. However, this same amount could be dangerous for unborn children.



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It is therefore very important to make sure you are not pregnant before an elective radiological test. A pregnancy test can be done in case you are not sure.

Some people have allergies to the iodine dye used in this test. Make sure to tell your doctor about your allergies and about any possible reactions to any sort of dye used on you in the past.

In some people, dye can cause kidney failure. The iodine dye used in this test could possibly cause allergic reactions or kidney failure. These are very rare, but unfortunately, either of these complications could lead to death. It is therefore very important to tell your doctors about any allergic reactions you might have had in the past. You should tell your doctor if you are on Glucophage®.

Summary

An intravenous pyelogram, or IVP, can be helpful in detecting problems in the urinary tract: the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra.

In these organs, this test helps detect problems such as tumors, kidney stones, problems emptying the bladder, and kidney, ureter, or bladder malformations.

An IVP is a very safe test. Risks and complications are very rare. Knowing about them will help you detect them early if they happen.



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