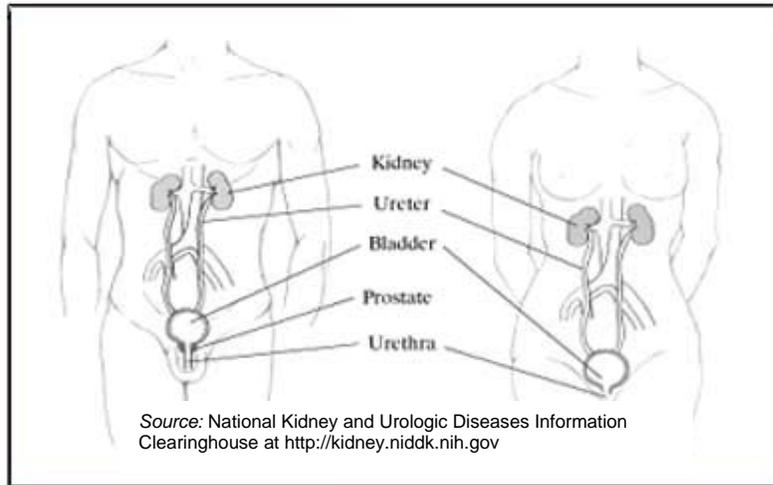


## What is an Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP)?



### What is an Intravenous Pyelogram?

An intravenous pyelogram, or IVP, is an x-ray examination of the urinary tract which consists of the kidneys, ureters, and urinary bladder. The IVP may help your doctor identify or rule out certain problems that may affect the urinary tract.

- Your doctor's office will give you specific instructions regarding any dietary restrictions, fluid intake, and bowel preparation prior to the day of the procedure.
- Certain medications may need to be stopped prior to or the day of the procedure, so it is important to review with your doctor and/or the x-ray technologist all of the medications you are currently taking. For example, the drug **Glucophage**, taken by some patients with diabetes, should be **withheld the day of the IVP and**
- **stopped for 2 days after the procedure.**
- You will be asked to remove your clothing and to put on a hospital gown.
- You will be asked to remove metal items such as jewelry, eyeglasses, and clothing with zippers or metal snaps which may show up on and obscure the images.
- **It is important to inform the technologist of any past history of allergic reactions to contrast media.**
- **For female patients, if there is any possibility that you are pregnant or breast feeding, be sure to inform the technologist of this prior to the exam.**

## How is the IVP performed?

- The technologist will assist in positioning you on an examination table and a preliminary film will be taken.
- The nurse will then use a very small needle to inject contrast medium into a vein in your arm. Some people experience a warm sensation when the contrast medium is injected.
- The contrast medium will travel through your blood stream, making the kidneys, ureters, and urinary bladder visible on the x-ray films. The contrast will eventually pass out of your body in the urine.
- Each time an x-ray film is taken, you will be asked to hold perfectly still and to hold your breath for a few seconds. A series of films will be taken to visualize your entire urinary tract.
- Near the end of the examination, you will be asked to go the rest room to empty your bladder for an additional film with an empty bladder.
- Once the examination is completed and the radiologist has checked the films, you may get dressed and leave.

## Is the IVP safe?

The x-ray machine produces an x-ray beam which is carefully limited to the body part being examined. No radiation remains in your body after the examination. Uncommonly, a patient may experience an allergic reaction to the contrast medium that is injected.

**For female patients, if there is any possibility you may be pregnant or breast feeding, it is important to tell this to the technologist before the x-ray.**

Speak with the x-ray technologist if you have questions or concerns regarding your IVP. A formal report will be sent to your doctor within days following your procedure. Your doctor will speak with you regarding the results.

Source: American College of Radiology. Retrieved 04/2007 from [www.radiologyinfo.org](http://www.radiologyinfo.org)

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