What is an IVP?

An IVP (Intravenous Pyelogram or Excretory Urogram) is a special X-ray of the kidneys, ureters and bladder. These body parts do not show up on X-ray images so a contrast medium or “dye” needs to be injected. The dye is injected into a vein. It travels in the blood to the kidneys, ureters and bladder. As it passes through the kidneys, ureters, and bladder, the technologist takes the X-ray images.

How is it done?

The IVP is done in the Radiology Department. Your child will wear a hospital gown, open at the back, and his/her underpants. Your child empties his/her bladder (“pees”) before the test begins. Then he/she lies on an X-ray table. The technologist takes an X-ray of the abdomen [tummy]. Then the “dye” is injected into a vein [usually in the arm]. The IVP takes 30 - 45 minutes.

How does it feel?

Your child will feel a needle prick with the injection. There is no pain or discomfort during the X-rays.

How do you prepare your child's bowel for the IVP?

To get good images of the kidneys, ureters and bladder, it is best when the bowel is empty.

Babies to 2 years:

- do not give any food or drinks for 3 hours before the IVP.

2 to 6 years old:

- On the day before the IVP, in the afternoon, give your child a 5 mg. Dulcolax tablet to swallow. Dulcolax is medicine to help the bowel empty. Do not crush the tablet. Help the child to swallow it whole. [Ask your pharmacist for ideas on how to do this if you are not sure!]. It does not taste good if your child chews it. Your child must not drink milk or take antacid medicine 1 hour before or after the Dulcolax.
- Do not give your child any solid food on the day of the IVP until after the IVP is finished,
- Do not give your child anything to drink for 3 hours before the IVP.

7 to 16 years old:

- On the day before the IVP, in the afternoon or early evening, give a 10 mg. Dulcolax tablet to your child. Dulcolax is medicine to help the bowel empty. The tablet should be swallowed whole [not crushed or chewed]. Your child must not drink milk or take antacid medicine 1 hour before or after the Dulcolax.

If the IVP is in the morning:

- nothing to eat or drink from midnight the day before the IVP

If the IVP is in the afternoon:

- nothing solid to eat for 6 hours before the test
- nothing to drink for 6 hours before the test
Useful things to know.

- If your child has an abdominal problem or injury - the bowel preparation may not be done. Check with your doctor about this.

- If your child is diabetic - tell the Radiology Appointment Clerk. Ask to have an early appointment in the morning. Remind the doctor to note the diabetes on the form requesting the IVP. You may need to adjust your child’s insulin on the day of the IVP. Ask your doctor to help if you are unsure about this.

Please tell the Radiologist if your child:

- has had an IVP before,
- is allergic to anything [food, drugs, etc],
- has a kidney disease or may have renal hypertension.

Are there any side effects after an IVP?

Usually no. Your child needs no special care after an IVP. He/she can return to his/her usual activities.

How do you get the results of the IVP?

The radiologist will write to your doctor about what he/she sees in the X-rays. Your doctor will discuss these results with you.

How can you help your child?

Share this information with your child. Explain in simple ways so your child understands. Children usually don’t worry if they understand where and what will happen. A nurse or Child Life specialist can help if your child seems very anxious.

Outpatients.

The hospital is a busy place. Although there is pay parking on the site, it can be hard to find a space.

You must register at the Admitting Department before coming to the Radiology Department for the scan. You may have a wait.

Please make sure you allow enough time for these possible delays so you can be on time for your appointment. You and your child will be more relaxed if you are not rushed.

The Admitting Department and the Radiology Department are on the main floor of B.C.’s Children’s Hospital.

Notes (or any questions you have about the IVP):

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